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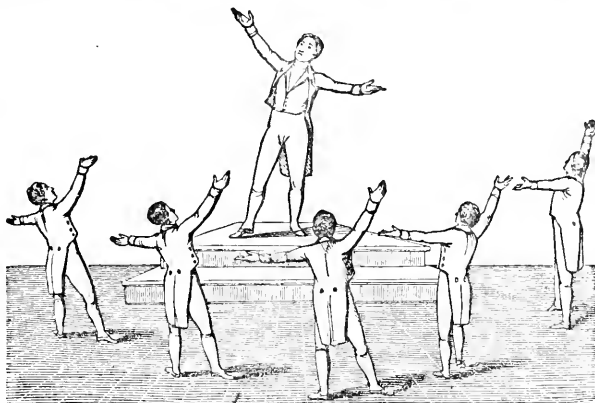




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# ELOCUTION TAUGHT—STAMMERING CURED.



## DR. COMSTOCK'S VOCAL GYMNASIUM,

No. 102 ARCH STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

THIS INSTITUTION, which has been in successful operation since 1828, is designed for the PROMOTION OF HEALTH, the CURE OF STAMMERING and DEFECTIVE ARTICULATION, for INSTRUCTION IN ELOCUTION AND PHONETICS, and for the ACQUISITION OF ANCIENT AND MODERN LANGUAGES.

In this Institution, Elocution is treated as a *science*, as well as an *art*. The various movements of the voice, both in speech and song, are illustrated by original diagrams and by oral instruction. The exercises give the pupil *complete* command of the muscles of articulation, extend the compass of the voice, and render it smooth, powerful, and melodious. They not only call forth all the energies of the vocal organs, correct stammering, lisping, and other impediments of speech, but they *invigorate the lungs*, and, consequently, fortify them against the invasion of disease. The vocal exercises are not unfrequently accompanied by gesticulation, or the use of the dumb-bells. Hence, to a certain extent, general gymnastics are associated with those of the voice; and awkwardness of manner and posture is removed by the substitution of rhetorical grace. In other words, all the voluntary muscles of the trunk and limbs are so trained as to move in the order required by the will, synchronously and harmoniously with those of the voice.

### TICKETS PER COURSE.

For Instructing the Dumb to Speak.....	1 year.....	\$1600
Instruction for the Cure of Stammering.....	10 weeks.....	100
Correction of Defective Articulation.....	50 private lessons.....	50
Private Instruction in Elocution.....	30 lessons, each 1 hour.....	30
Instruction in Elocution, in a class.....	60 lessons, each 1 h. 30 min....	30
Instruction in Elocution, in the evening class..	30 lessons, each 1 h. 30 min....	15
Instruction in Languages.....	30 lessons, in a class.....	15

The ticket, in each case, to be paid for in advance. Board, in the Institution, from \$5 to \$10 per week, in advance.

No one can become a pupil in the Vocal Gymnasium, who spits on the floor, or is not otherwise cleanly in his habit—no member of the Institution is allowed to use tobacco in any form.

ANDREW COMSTOCK, M.D., PRINCIPAL,  
No. 102 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

# VOCAL GYMNASIUM.

## RULES, CONDITIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS, &c.

### RULES, ADOPTED IN 1840.

*From experience in teaching without fixed rules for the regulation of the conduct of the different classes, the Proprietor of the Institution is convinced of their importance. He has, therefore, drawn up the following, to which he requires each member to subscribe on entering the school.*

1. Each member of the Institution must be punctual in attendance at all the exercises: he must not leave till their close.

2. Each member must attend every exhibition at the Vocal Gymnasium, and at every other place.

3. Each member, while exercising, must stand or sit erect.

Neither postures, motions, nor actions, unfavourable to vocal delivery, are allowed: such as rocking the wind, or leaning self back in the chair, or resting the arms upon the back of it, or even the feet upon the rounds.

4. When, in concert exercises, a section is given out, it must be immediately repeated by every member of the class, in the proper pitch and time, and with the requisite degree of force.

5. When a piece is given out with gesticulation, the members of the class must rise simultaneously, immediately after the first section is pronounced, and repeat the words and gesture.

6. Each student must perform all the exercises with unwearied industry: in a manner which shall indicate that he is resolved on a cure.

7. As walking about the room, changing seats, &c., greatly interrupt the process of instruction, the members of the class are required to keep in their places during the exercises.

This rule, of course, does not apply to those exercises which require the class to keep time by marching.

8. No one is allowed to have any thing in his hands, except his book, during the exercises.

9. All colloquial intercourse, in the time of exercising, is strictly forbidden.

10. No whistling, loud talking, or other unnecessary noise, in entering, or in leaving the room, is allowed.

11. As any remarks calculated to discourage the Stammerer from persevering in the exercises, greatly retard, if not entirely prevent a cure, every member of the Institution is required to refrain from making them.

*Presuming that the deportment of each Student, will, on every occasion, be that of a gentleman; the Proprietor of the Institution confidently trusts that the above rules will not be violated.*

## REMARKS ON STAMMERING.

*From a Lecture on Elocution, delivered before the American Lyceum,  
May 6, 1837,*

BY ANDREW COMSTOCK, M. D.

FOR the last twelve years (since 1825), the author of these REMARKS has been engaged in an investigation of the philosophy of the human voice, with a view to the formation of a system of just ELOCUTION, and to the discovery of the true means for correcting DEFECTIVE ARTICULATION, and for removing IMPEDIMENTS OF SPEECH IN STAMMERERS. How far he has succeeded in his attempt is not for him to say. His system is the result of his own reflection and experience; and, as it is founded in philosophy, it is the only *true* system. The following pages contain the mere outlines of the system. The work itself will be presented to the public as soon as the author's other labors will permit

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Stammering or stuttering is a hesitation or interruption of speech, and is usually attended with more or less distortion of feature. This affection presents itself under a variety of forms; but my limits will not allow me to give a particular description of them. I will notice only the most striking.

In some cases, the stammerer makes an effort to speak, and all his breath is expelled without producing vocality; in others, the lips are spasmodically closed:—these two forms often occur in the same case. Sometimes the stammerer, while speaking or reading, loses all power over the vocal organs, and remains some moments with his mouth open, before he can recover sufficient energy to proceed. In many cases, the stammerer repeats the word immediately preceding the one he is attempting to pronounce, or he repeats, in a rapid manner, the first element, or the first syllable, of the difficult word.

CAUSES.—The *predisposing* causes are nervous irritability and delicacy of constitution.

The most usual *exciting* causes are diffidence, embarrassment, a fear of not being successful when about to make an effort to speak, an attempt to speak faster than the vocal organs can assume the proper positions for utterance. Two or more of these causes often occur in the same case. Sometimes the habit of stammering is acquired by imitation.

The *proximate* cause of stammering is a spasmodic action of the muscles of speech.

PROGNOSIS.—The probability of a cure depends upon the following circum-

stances: If the stammerer has a cheerful disposition, is distinguished for energy of mind and decision of character, can appreciate the variations of pitch in speech and song, or, in other words, has an ear for music and a taste for elocution, the prognosis is favourable. But if he is of a nervous temperament, subject to melancholy, irresolute of purpose, incapable of imitation in speaking and singing, the prognosis is unfavourable.

TREATMENT.—The stammerer should be impressed with the importance, nay, necessity, of giving exclusive attention to the subject; and he should not be allowed to converse with any one till he can speak without stammering. These rules cannot be too strongly enforced. I am fully persuaded of this from my own experience. Several stammerers, who have placed themselves under my care, taking but two or three lessons a week, and attending to their usual avocations, have left me disappointed; while those who have given undivided attention to the subject, have been entirely relieved. True, many are more or less benefited even by occasionally taking a lesson; but it is very difficult, by any irregular course, to effect a radical cure. The habit of stammering should be arrested at once; for, while it is continued, how is it possible that the habit of speaking correctly can be established?

Great pains should be taken to inspire the stammerer with confidence. He should be convinced that his success depends mainly upon his own exertions: that he must pursue the various exercises assigned him with indefatigable zeal, with untiring industry; that he has the same organs of speech as other people, and nothing is necessary to enable him to use them as well, but a conviction in his ability to do so. To think that one *can* do, gives almost the ability to accomplish—but to think that one *cannot* do, virtually takes away the ability to do, even where it is ample.

Stammering is often continued by the subordinate estimation which the stammerer puts upon himself. He is too apt to consider those around him giants and himself a dwarf. As this estimation of himself serves to perpetuate his disease, it is clear that its remedy must be found in making himself equal to any: if this mental classification into giants and dwarfs must take place, let the stammerers make themselves the giants, and those around them the dwarfs.

The teacher should study the disposition of his pupil: he should persuade him to banish from his mind all melancholy thoughts—in short, he should do every thing in his power to render his pupil cheerful and happy.

Various athletic exercises should be resorted to daily, to invigorate all the muscles of voluntary motion, and diminish nervous irritability. In some cases it may be necessary to have recourse to tonics, anti-spasmodics, bathing in salt water, frictions over the whole surface of the body, &c. &c. Electricity may be used with advantage as a tonic, and also as a means of interrupting the spasm of the vocal organs.

The vocal treatment is deduced from the following circumstances:

1. An ability to sing.
2. An ability to speak when alone:
3. And if the stammerer must speak before an audience, the smaller the audience and the farther he is removed from it, the better.
4. An ability to speak amidst a noise that is sufficient to render the human voice nearly or quite inaudible.

5. An ability to speak better in the dark than in the light.
6. An ability to speak in a measured manner.
7. An ability to speak in a drawling manner.
8. An ability to speak with the mouth more or less distorted.
9. An ability to speak in any key, either higher or lower than that in which the stammerer usually converses.
10. An ability to speak with a halloo.
11. An ability to speak when the attention is divided or arrested by some object or circumstance more or less irrelevant to the subject.
12. An ability to speak in concert or simultaneously. Every one who has learned to sing, knows how much easier it is to sing in concert than alone. All the exercises, therefore, for the cure of stammering, should, at first, be conducted in concert.

Stammering may be considered a fault in elocution, the result of defective education, and is confirmed by habit. If children were properly instructed in speaking and reading, this affection of the vocal organs would, probably, seldom or never occur. Hence, no mode of treatment that is not founded in just elocution or the correct exercise of the organs of speech for the purposes of vocal expression, can be relied on. This must appear obvious to every intelligent and reflecting mind. The stammerer must be taught how to give language the pitch, time, and force which the sense requires. To effect this, his muscles of speech, which have long been refractory, must be trained till they are brought under the control of volition, and like a well marshalled troop of soldiers, made to act in harmonious concert.

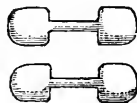
Oral language may be resolved into certain sounds which are its elements. Now there are certain positions of the organs of speech more favourable than others for the production of the elements. The stammerer should be made thoroughly acquainted with these positions, and, in connexion with them, should be required to exercise his voice in the most energetic manner upon all the elements singly, till he can utter them without hesitation. He should also utter them in various combinations, not only according to the laws of syllabication, but in every irregular way. The vowels should be exploded from the throat with great force; and they should be sung, as well as pronounced with the rising and falling inflection, through every interval of pitch within the compass of the voice.

The pupil should be drilled in various exercises whose highest peculiarity is time and force. Time may be measured by means of the Metronome, by beating with the hand, and by marching.\* Pitch, time, and force are the elements of expression, and a proper combination of them in reading and speaking, constitutes good elocution. When, therefore, the stammerer becomes master of these elements, as well as the elements of the language, he

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\* Also by beating with the dumb bells. (See "Practical Elocution.")

Dumb bells are commonly made of lead. Those used in the author's Vocal Gymnasium are turned out of lignum vitæ. They are one foot long, and four inches in diameter. (See the cuts in the margin.)



may commence speaking and reading. In his first attempts at conversation, both teacher and pupil should speak in a deliberate manner, with a full, firm tone of voice, and in a very low pitch.

The stammerer should now commit to memory a short piece which requires to be spoken with explosive force; for example, "Satan's speech to his legions." The members of the class should stand at a sufficient distance from each other to prevent their hands coming in contact when their arms are extended. They should then pronounce the speech in concert, after the teacher, and accompany it with appropriate gesticulation. It should be repeated again and again, till each pupil can give it proper expression, both as regards voice and gesture. Each pupil should then in turn, take the place of the teacher and give out the speech to the class. To prevent the pupil's stammering, while he is performing the teacher's part, the teacher himself should play an accompaniment on the violoncello, violin, organ, drum, or some other instrument. At first the notes should be made very loud; but if the effort of the pupil, standing out of the class, is likely to be successful, they should gradually be made softer and softer, and, finally, the accompaniment omitted altogether. This piece should be pronounced alternately with one which requires to be spoken with long quantity and in a low pitch, as "Ossian's Address to the Sun."

When the pupil has mastered these two kinds of reading, he may take up dignified dialogue, and, lastly, conversational pieces. He should drawl out difficult words, which are generally those having short vowels preceded by labials, dentals, and gutturals.

In very bad cases of stammering, the pupil should first sing the words, then drawl them, then pronounce them with very long quantity, and thus gradually approximate to common speaking.

As soon as the pupils can speak without stammering, they should recite singly in a very large room, or in the open air, at a distance from the audience, which, at first, should consist of the members of the class only. A few visitors should be occasionally introduced, and the number should be gradually increased. In this way the stammerer will soon acquire sufficient confidence to speak before a large assembly. In some cases it may be expedient for the stammerer to recite before an audience in a dark room; but as he acquires confidence, light should be gradually admitted.

Stammerers, instead of speaking immediately after inspiration, as they should do, often attempt to speak immediately after expiration, when, of course, they have no power to speak. The lungs, like a bellows, perform their part in the process of speaking, best, when plentifully supplied with air. This is an important fact, and should be remembered, not only by stammerers, but also by those who have occasion to read or speak in public. Loud speaking, long continued, with the lungs but partially distended, is very injurious to these organs: it is apt to occasion a spitting of blood, which is not unfrequently a precursor of pulmonary consumption. But loud speaking, with proper management of the breath, is a healthful exercise: besides strengthening the muscles which it calls into action, it promotes the decarbonization of the blood, and, consequently, exerts a salutary influence on the system generally.

## RECOMMENDATIONS.

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To the Editor of the Troy Daily Whig:

SIR—You are aware that a gentleman from Philadelphia, Dr. Comstock, is now giving lessons in Elocution: but perhaps you are *not* aware of the merits of his system or the extent of its usefulness: it is in many respects entirely original, in others founded on the investigations of the most distinguished vocalists. I have attended a few lessons, and am highly gratified that I have embraced the opportunity. Some of the gentlemen who have professed to teach Elocution in our city have given some satisfaction, but none have been able to handle the subject as he takes it up: his treatment of it is simple, natural, philosophical: he is prepared to meet any case of impediment in speaking, reading, or singing. If a pupil can speak or read at all, Dr. Comstock will teach him to do it well. Musicians also would do well to look into his system: they will find in it exercises to give force and melody to the voice that have never occurred to them. And besides the improvement in singing, and that most valuable of all accomplishments, *good reading*, there is another to be derived from these exercises, which is far more important than either—it *promotes health*. The plan is so constructed as to call forth all the energies of the vocal organs—the *lungs* particularly are fortified and invigorated by practice according to his system; and in this view of the subject I would suggest to our physicians, who in general evince great assiduity and skill in *preventing* as well as removing disease, that they do so much for the public weal, as to call on Dr. Comstock that they may know the advantages of the vocal exercises.

It is to be regretted that Dr. Comstock will remain but a short time with us; but short as it is, those who wish to profit by his instructions will have time to do so.

Yours,

P.

August 15, 1834.

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*From the Philadelphia Commercial Intelligencer, August 20, 1834.*

We have observed with pleasure in the Troy Whig of the 15th instant, a favourable notice of that excellent Elocutionist of our city, Dr. Comstock, He is giving lessons in Elocution at Troy with much success.

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*From the Troy Daily Whig of August 30, 1834.*

### DR. COMSTOCK'S LECTURES.

MR. EDITOR—Yesterday, I had the pleasure to hear an interesting Lecture on Elocution, by Andrew Comstock, M. D. from the city of Philadelphia. He understands the elementary sounds of the English Language well, and appears to have entire command over the vocal organs. He ex-

plans the movements of the voice by diagrams, and measures the variations of pitch by the musical scale. He has with him two books on practical elocution, of which he is the author—the *Rhythmical Reader*, which contains pieces adapted to the taste of ladies, and *Practical Elocution*, which is designed for gentlemen. He teaches his pupils from these books how to read in a graceful manner. If an individual has a feeble voice, it can be strengthened; if *harsh*, softened, by pursuing the course he recommends. He clearly points out the difference between *boisterous* and *eloquent* speaking; and he shows how to produce a great effect upon a public assembly, with very little effort.

The simplicity and power of the organs of speech furnish, I think, sufficient reason for the exclamation:

“How wonderful is man.  
How passing wonder He  
Who made him such.”

Whoever wishes to attain the faculty of speaking with correctness and elegance, in public places, and in the social circle, would do well to call and examine the system for themselves.

*A Friend to the Science of speaking well.*

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*From the Troy Daily Budget of September 8, 1834.*

#### DR. COMSTOCK'S LECTURES.

MR. EDITOR—There is no branch of education more deserving of public attention than oratory. Volumes have been written upon it. It has been cultivated, as a science, in all civilized countries; and its power has been universally felt and acknowledged. Its use and importance have occupied the attention of many distinguished men of our own and other countries. Were it otherwise, orators could not command, as they now do, “the applause of listening senates.” To speak *well* is one of the highest attainments to which our hopes can aspire.

Permit me, Sir, to invite those who wish to attain this invaluable science, to attend Dr. Comstock's Lectures on Elocution, at the Court House. His manner of reading is bold, original, and striking. I have attended his Lectures for several days; and, in common with his other pupils, highly appreciate them. He is, in the opinion of all who have heard him lecture, a faithful, capable, and excellent elocutionist.

*A Friend to Oratory*

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Dr. Comstock has been instructing my pupils two hours in a day for two weeks, in Elocution; and I am happy in having an opportunity to bear testimony to their unexampled improvement in reading and speaking

G. W. FRANCIS.

*Troy. September 5, 1835*



*From the Philanthropist, Philadelphia, January 16, 1836.*

# ELOCUTION.

We would recommend to those individuals who wish to become chaste and accomplished speakers, to take a course of instruction of Dr. Andrew Comstock, whose merits as an elocutionist we have had the opportunity to prove.

His system, which has the best claims to respect, will commend itself to persons of taste, as it is entirely free from theatrical affectation, or artificial display, and founded on truth and nature. Many gentlemen in the learned professions, and individuals in other spheres of life, who have received the benefits of his instruction, and who are therefore the well-qualified judges of his skill in this science, have given him unsolicited and unqualified praise. We wish him continued success.

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*From the United States Gazette, May 7, 1836.*

## DR. COMSTOCK'S LECTURES ON ELOCUTION.

MR. EDITOR :—Having occasion on my return from Washington to New York, to stop a few days at Philadelphia, I most cheerfully availed myself of the opportunity of witnessing the exercises in Elocution in which Dr Comstock's pupils are engaged, and it affords me pleasure to say, that I have been very highly gratified.

The skill with which the Doctor imparts to his pupils a knowledge of the science and art of Elocution, and the proficiency which they have already made, are conclusive evidences that Elocution "can be taught." It was taught during the flourishing ages of Greece and Rome. Demosthenes and Cicero studied it in those republics, and studied it thoroughly anterior to their successful appearance before their fellow-citizens as orators.

I wish, Mr. Editor, that some of our members of Congress could, or rather would, put themselves under the tuition of Dr. Comstock, or some other accomplished Elocutionist, long enough, at least, to learn the principles upon which good reading and speaking are founded. If our national legislators had a knowledge of Elocution, as taught by Dr. Comstock, they certainly would be heard with much more attention and interest; and, I may add, they would be more useful to the country.

Ministers of the Gospel, too, by becoming first-rate readers and speakers, can promulgate with ease and facility, the truths of Christianity. Religion has suffered much in consequence of the bungling manner in which preachers and professors have presented it to the world. It is gratifying to know that several clergymen are now taking lessons in Elocution, of Dr Comstock, and that they are making great improvement.

It would be well for gentlemen of the legal profession, to study the laws of Elocution, as well as those of the land. Ladies, too, ought to feel interested in improving their Elocution,—some of the Philadelphia ladies do; and I have had the satisfaction of hearing one of the Doctor's classes exercise, the members of which are becoming excellent readers.

There are two or three literary institutions in which Dr. Comstock's valuable services have been retained. It is to be regretted that any seminary of learning, especially any college, should exist without a professorship of Elocution. It is not only an important branch of education, but as much so as any to which the attention of youth can be directed.

S. N. S.

U. S. Hotel, May 2, 1836.

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*From the Episcopal Recorder, Rev. George A. Smith, Editor.*

Philadelphia, Saturday Morning, June 18, 1836.

### ELOCUTION.

The following communication is from the United States Gazette. The subject is one of importance, and we are enabled from our own observation to confirm the statements of the writer. Several of our clergy have attended Dr. Comstock's lectures, and consider the system which he has adopted well calculated to assist in *ease* and *propriety* of reading and speaking.

MR. EDITOR :—Impressed with the value of education, and inclined to contribute aught in my power to aid those who are in the pursuit of its benefits, allow me, through your columns, to make a public expression of my sentiments, regarding the character of Dr. Andrew Comstock, as a teacher of Elocution, and its kindred branches. Having been a common inmate in the Doctor's office for many weeks, examined his publications and diagrams, and witnessed his method of instruction, with the cheering success by which it has been characterised, I write understandingly upon this occasion.

From the Doctor's knowledge of our organs of speech, of their diseases and remedies, and the best mode of imparting to them vigour and activity—from his knowledge of the laws of sound, ample experience in his present vocation, joined with his acknowledged integrity, I am persuaded he is eminently qualified to sustain his highest pretensions as a scientific and practical Elocutionist.

Dr. Comstock's mode of instruction is founded in the philosophy of his subject, is abundantly successful in its application—stands the scrutiny of talents—challenges the confidence of society.

Graduates from our halls of science, gentlemen of the learned professions—ladies of cultivated minds, have been pleased to testify the essential advantage they have derived from his lectures.

I have myself been much delighted in seeing the rapid, material, and oftentimes complete improvement which unfortunate stammerers have made under his tuition, in their enunciation—while teacher and pupils cordially indulged in their mutual congratulations.

A CLERGYMAN

*From the U. S. Gazette.*

STAMMERING CURED BY DR. COMSTOCK

MR. EDITOR :—Having experienced, to a very painful extent, the many privations necessarily and peculiarly connected with inveterate stammering, to which I have been subject from early life, I am anxious thus to acknowledge the restoration that has been effected in my case, under the instruction of Dr. Comstock. Knowing, as I well do, how valuable such a communication would have once been to me, I am induced to pen this for the benefit of others.

My articulation, until very lately, was so embarrassing and difficult, as to have, in a very great degree, shut out from me the pleasure of conversation. I could scarcely articulate a single sentence without considerable effort on my part, and apparent anxiety and pain to others. I therefore seldom spoke from choice, and even avoided, when possible, the necessity of doing so. I am, however, no longer subjected to these severe deprivations, but so relieved from them, that I can now converse with friends or strangers, and feel confident of my power to do so.

Many years ago, and at some expense and trouble, I sought out Mr Chapman, a teacher then of considerable notoriety, and placed myself immediately under his care. Of him I do not complain, but notice the fact as part of my experience. Those who are aware of his injunctions know how impossible it is here to compare the peculiarities of his plan with the principles of my last tutor's, whose system, however, I should unhesitatingly prefer.

A. EVANS.

Philadelphia, June 24, 1836.

A gentleman named Abner Evans called on me a few weeks ago, and desired me to examine him, in his conversation and in his reading with reference to stammering in his speech. He informed me that he was 34 years of age—that he had been an inveterate stammerer from his infancy; but that he had, about two weeks before that time, placed himself under the care of Dr. Andrew Comstock, and that he now believed himself cured of the infirmity under which he had so long laboured. I examined the gentleman with considerable care, and was unable to discover anything like stammering, or embarrassment or impediment in his speech, either in conversation or reading.

JOHN H. WILLITS.

July 15th, 1836.

I certify, that I have known Mr. A. Evans for a number of years, that he was an inveterate stammerer, and that he was completely relieved in two weeks, under the instruction of Dr. Comstock. I will further add, that I am intimately acquainted with Dr. C., that he has devoted several years to the study of the subject which he professes to teach, and that I believe he is fully prepared to meet any case of impediment in reading or speaking.

JOS. P. MUSGRAVE, M. D.

No. 142, Pine Street, Phila., July 16, 1836

*From the Public Ledger, July 27, 1837.*

*Remarks on Stammering.*—We have received a small pamphlet with this title, being the substance of a lecture delivered before the American Lyceum, May 6, 1837, by Andrew Comstock, M. D., of this city. He has treated his subject scientifically, and in a manner showing that he understands the human voice both theoretically and practically. He has been engaged for ten years, investigating the human voice, for the purpose of forming a system of just elocution, and of removing impediments of speech; and from reading this little pamphlet, we should infer that he had been successful.

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*From the United States Gazette.*

CONGRESS HALL, Philadelphia, Nov. 25, 1837.

ANDREW COMSTOCK, M. D.

DEAR SIR,—Before leaving your city, allow me to express to you the perfect satisfaction I feel, in witnessing the progress which my son has made in Elocution under your instruction.

The habit of stammering which commenced with his early efforts to speak, and which thirteen years (his present age) seemed only to confirm, is now, with six weeks' instruction, completely eradicated.

Though delighted beyond expression in this result, I am not disappointed. From the moment I became acquainted with your method of instruction, I did not doubt its entire success. Founded on scientific principles, it must succeed in all cases where there is no malformation of the organs of speech.

You have reduced to a system what before was but imperfectly understood, and done most essential service to mankind in elevating a numerous class of unfortunate fellow-beings, and saved them from the impositions of ignorant and unprincipled empirics.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. PIERCE, M. D. of Athens, N. Y.

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*From the Public Ledger, March 17, 1838.*

### STAMMERING CURED.

PHILADELPHIA, March 1, 1838.

MESSRS. EDITORS,—Being about to leave this city for the West, I would thank you to give publicity to my testimony as to the skill of Dr. Andrew Comstock, No. 100, Arch street, Philadelphia, in removing stammering. I have been under his care about eight weeks, for the removal of a painful impediment of eighteen years, standing, which debarred me from the pleasures of conversation and social intercourse. I can now converse very fluently, and have addressed large audiences without the least hesitation.

I am now 23 years of age, and you can judge of my gratitude to him for removing a complaint which has embittered the greatest part of my life. I take great pleasure in recommending him to those similarly afflicted. His system being founded on scientific principles, and the fact of his being the only individual in America, who professes the cure of stammering, without enacting from his patient a promise of secrecy, proves that his system will bear investigation.

WM. R. COMBS.

WE certify that we have been intimately acquainted with *Wm. R. Combs* for the last three years; that he was a very bad stammerer, and that he was entirely relieved under the instruction of Dr. Andrew Comstock, of No. 100, Arch street, Philadelphia.

JOHN R. BECK, No. 17, Elizabeth st.

THOMAS J. WHITE, No. 380, N. Second st.

JACOB GRIM, No. 480, N. Third st.

THOMAS P. HEYL, No. 173, Green st.

### STAMMERING CURED.

PHILADELPHIA, March 9, 1838.

MESSRS. EDITORS,—About seven weeks since I placed myself under the care of Dr. Andrew Comstock, No. 100, Arch street, Philadelphia, for the removal of an impediment in my speech, with which I had been afflicted for thirteen years. I am now happy to state that I am able to converse with ease and fluency, and that I feel no hesitation in speaking in public. I have witnessed the same happy results in many other cases, both of ladies and gentlemen. I have not a doubt of his success in curing the most inveterate stammerer. Unlike all others who have professed to cure stammering in this country, Dr. Comstock exacts no promise of secrecy from his patient.

HENRY J. ENNIS,

No. 248, Pearl street, New-York.

*From the Phoenix Civilian, Cumberland, Md., May 19, 1838.*

Our acquaintance with the young gentleman mentioned below, who has received the benefit of Dr. Comstock's treatment in the cure of an impediment of speech under which he laboured, enables us to bear evidence of the efficacy of that treatment. Since his return from Philadelphia, where he had been under Dr. Comstock's care for a short time, we find that his speech is free and easy; so much so, that had we not been aware of the great difficulty under which he laboured before, we should not now know that he ever had been cured of such an affliction.

*From the Pennsylvanian, Philadelphia, April 26, 1838.*

### A GRATIFYING TESTIMONIAL.

The subjoined letter to Dr. Comstock, Professor of Elocution, of this city, is from a young gentleman of great respectability, residing at Cumberland, Allegany county, Maryland, where his father is one of the leading practitioners at the bar. The writer of the letter, who, we believe, is a student at law, laboured under a serious impediment in speech, which would have greatly interfered with his professional advancement; but it appears from his own statement, that under the care of Dr. Comstock, he was completely and radically cured. The letter subjoined, is a voluntary and grateful testimonial to that effect.

CUMBERLAND, Md., April 20, 1838.

DR. ANDREW COMSTOCK :

DEAR SIR,—I have deferred giving a certificate with regard to the success I met with in my recent visit to your Institution, No. 100, Arch street, Philadelphia, for the purpose of removing an impediment in my speech, until the present period, that I might thoroughly test the effects of your system upon my articulation by time and experience. Both of these, I am happy to inform you, find me now—as was the case when I left Philadelphia on the 13th of February last—perfectly fluent in reading as well as in conversation—so much so, that it would be impossible for any one who had no previous knowledge of my impediment, to know that any such defect ever afflicted me.

But besides the happy effect your system has had in relieving my impediment, it has been of incalculable benefit to me in many other respects. My voice, which was formerly weak, and incapable of being raised very little higher than the ordinary tone used in common conversation, has been greatly improved and strengthened; and now it costs me but a slight physical effort to fill a considerable space.

In conclusion, I unhesitatingly recommend all those similarly afflicted, to make a trial of your system. Besides the success which has attended it in my own case, I have seen many others greatly benefited—both ladies and gentlemen. This speaks more strongly in its favour than words can express, and should remove all doubt from the minds of individuals, if any exist, as to its efficacy in effecting a cure.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHARLES H. J. PIGMAN.

*From the Philadelphia Saturday Courier, October 29, 1836.*

#### CURE FOR STAMMERING.

A young gentleman named Samuel E. Duffield, of M'Connellsburg, in this state, called upon us the other day, and wished us to state that he has always been subject to a natural impediment of speech, which of late years had been increasing upon him. He visited this city, placed himself under the care of Dr. Comstock, and has been entirely cured. He can speak and read with as much fluency as though he had never been subject to any impediment of speech.

*From the United States Gazette, Philadelphia, Oct. 31, 1836.*

#### STAMMERING.

We had on Saturday the pleasure of listening to the reading, recitation and discourse of a pupil of Dr. Comstock, who has been with him less than three weeks, and was from his infancy a stammerer, the evil increasing with the growth of the youth, and with his intercourse with society. He is now able to speak and read without the least sign of hesitancy. Dr. Comstock's system is simple, and, as it appears, efficacious, and he affects no mystery: we trust that those who are subject to the painful inconvenience of stammering, will apply to him; and we really believe that if they will give attention to his rules, they may be entirely cured.

*From the Philadelphia Gazette, Nov. 29, 1836.*

The following tribute to the skill of a Gentleman whose success in a very difficult profession has been astonishing, is not less grateful to the object of it himself, than it is useful to the public at large. We perform a general benefit by giving it currency through the press.

Letter to Dr. Comstock, of Philadelphia.

M'CONNELLSBURG, Nov. 13, 1836.

DEAR SIR;—My son has returned from the city, after an absence of about four weeks, and I cannot refrain from acknowledging my unfeigned satisfaction in the improvement of his speech. Before he left home it gave me pain to hear him attempt to speak; now I will defy any person to know he had ever been a stammerer. I do cordially recommend all who have an impediment in their speech, if possible to avail themselves of your system for the cure of stammering. I am, with respect, yours, &c.

WILLIAM DUFFIELD.

*From the United States Gazette.*

#### STAMMERING.

We publish a communication from the Rev. O. C. Comstock, Chaplain to Congress, upon the merits of his relative, Dr. A. COMSTOCK, of this city, as a professor of Elocution. From some knowledge of the scientific gentleman alluded to, and the great success which has attended his exertions in the cure of stammering, we cordially endorse the testimony. The Rev. Dr. Comstock, of Washington, being himself an eloquent divine, much credit may be attached to his opinions on a topic so entirely within his sphere.

Letter to the Editor, from the Rev. O. C. Comstock, Chaplain to Congress.

WASHINGTON, January 26, 1837.

SIR—In this age of arrogant pretension and stupendous humbuggery

the public should receive with becoming caution, every announcement of extraordinary achievements in any of the departments of useful knowledge. The wonderful exploits of ignorant and unprincipled pretenders, are frequently lauded to the skies, in the newspaper paragraphs of anonymous writers. Disdaining to impose on honest credulity, by making an assertion where I cannot establish a fact—indisposed to avoid any responsibility that may be attached to my character, I will not be induced to do so upon this occasion, by withholding my humble name from this article, in consequence of the delicate collateral relation subsisting between myself and the talented and honourable gentleman to whom it alludes—I mean Dr. A. Comstock, of Philadelphia. The Dr. before and since his graduation at the university of Pennsylvania, has been much employed in the education of youth.

The books and diagrams which he has published, illustrating the true principles of elocution, and the methods by which it can be most successfully taught—the high state of improvement witnessed and admired, in the voice, reading and speaking of his pupils, render him deservedly celebrated as an elocutionist, wherever his reputation is known.

But I should not have obtruded these remarks upon the consideration of your readers, would they not conduce to a better understanding of the following intelligence, which I hope may subserve the interests of suffering humanity.

My friend has removed, in numbers of unfortunate stammerers, that most embarrassing and painful difficulty of enunciation with which they have been affected. Some of these sufferers had been long schooled by others, with reference to the removal of this calamity, with little or no success.

That a cure, in this case, is an object most ardently to be desired, is deeply felt by every victim of this misfortune—by every fond parent, who, but for stammering, might regard his darling boy a fair candidate for the highest academic honours—the *applause of listening Senates*. There is now before my mental vision a lovely boy of great promise, on whom his parents design to bestow a finished education; but who, alas! was painfully afflicted with stammering. He is now, however, under the tuition of Dr. Comstock, greatly improving in his elocution; inspiring the confident expectation of perfect victory over the source of so much unhappiness. The sparkling animation of his eye—his cheering smiles—express the rapture of his grateful heart. The thankfulness and joyful anticipation of his parents cannot be described, or even imagined, but by those in similar circumstances.

Having spent some months with my relative, I am well acquainted with his system, and manner of instruction, and its delightful results.

Unlike all sorts of imposture, there is no affectation of superlative wisdom held as a profound secret, in the theory and practice of this valuable art—as triumphantly explored and applied by the Doctor. His course of operation is founded in an extensive knowledge of his subject—the fruit of his ample study and practice. His discipline develops, invigorates, and renders flexible the organs of speech. He teaches his pupils how these organs are to be properly exercised. They are made obedient to the will—capable of much and various accomplishments. In short, he cures stammerers, by teaching them scientific and practical elocution.

How much reason have we to rejoice in the march of mind—the efforts of philanthropy—the benevolence of God. Yours, with respect,

O. C. COMSTOCK



*Certificates from Professor Horner and Professor Hare, of the University of Pennsylvania.*

Having been present on the 10th inst. at the exercises of the pupils in Dr Andrew Comstock's Gymnasium, for the improvement of the voice and of the articulation in stammerers and others, the impression made upon me was highly favourable to his method of instruction.

The system is founded upon an exact anatomical and physiological information, in regard to the organs concerned in the production and modification of sound. Its several parts appear to have been evolved and matured upon a degree of thought and an extent of experiment reflecting much credit upon his sagacity and industry, and it inspires a very strong confidence of its applicability to the faults generally of speech or phonation. One of his pupils, who only a week before the occasion alluded to, had been a most unpleasant stammerer, was then heard to recite publicly with great ease and fluency, with a full intonation.

W. E. HORNER, M. D.

Professor of Anatomy in the University of Pennsylvania.

Philadelphia, Aug. 11, 1837.

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 14th, 1837.

Having been present on the occasion alluded to in the preceding letter of the Professor of Anatomy, I have no hesitation in alleging that my impressions are consistent with those which my colleague has therein expressed.

ROBERT HARE, M. D.

Professor of Chemistry in the University of Pennsylvania.

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*From the Select Medical Library and Eclectic Journal of Medicine, edited by John Bell, M. D., Lecturer on the Institutes of Medicine and Medical Jurisprudence, Member of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, and of the American Philosophical Society, etc. September, 1837.*

COMSTOCK'S VOCAL GYMNASIUM AND LYCEUM FOR  
ELOCUTION.

It is not necessary that a man should be a stammerer, in order to be aware, from personal experience, of his imperfection in vocal utterance and speech. We are taught to read and to express ourselves grammatically in conversation; but how few learn suitable intonation, and a full and a distinct utterance,—by which speech obtains much of its charm and acquires often all its influence. Graceful gestures in walking and dancing, and in presenting one's self in company, are thought by many to be of paramount importance; and hence, as a matter of course, the majority of young persons of both sexes are placed under the direction of a teacher of dancing. And yet, after all, what are the graces of manner compared to the melody of voice; and how imperfect the address of the otherwise accomplished gentleman or lady, without full and mellifluous speech! Nature here, as in all that concerns either bodily or mental endowment, does, it is true, establish great differences amongst individuals. One person has, naturally, a musical voice, as it is called; another a harsh or somewhat dissonant one. But still, education pos

esses, we also know, a good deal of plastic power; and in no case is the influence of physical education more evident than in the strength which exercise gives to the muscles in general, and in the agility and grace which practice imparts to the movements of the limbs; as in the evolutions of the dance, and on the tight rope, &c. On the same principle precisely, without any charin, magic or mystification, can the muscles which, by their successive or alternate and combined action, give rise to voice and speech, be educated into strength and measured and harmonious movement, and produce clear and full intonation, distinct articulation, and emphatic utterance.

This particular department of muscular exercise and education, has greater claims on our time and attention than any other. The organs of speech, with few unfortunate exceptions, are possessed by all mankind; they are in constant use by all,—their functions are of the highest moment to all, whether for the display of the charms of song and poetry, the persuasion of oratory, the invocation of prayer, and the numberless exchanges of opinion and expression of the affections and emotions in social intercourse. The most rigid puritan or methodist, who would regard with distaste, perhaps horror, the exercises of the dance, and attach no importance to the graces of bodily movement, will still be as naturally and properly desirous of cultivating the voice, as the greatest stickler for worldly accomplishments. He does it in learning to sing the praises of his Maker, and when engaged in the solemn exercises of prayer and exhortation.

With the other sex, the charm of voice is a powerful means of persuasion and control. It gives to woman much of her influence—an influence depending on the mildness of her manner, and her soft and musical tones, displayed in the language of sympathy, entreaty, and of kind remonstrance. Her's is the privilege and the duty to be at the side of the suffering invalid, in infancy, in youth, and in mature age; to comfort the mourner, and to aid the poor and distressed. And what makes the potions to the feverish patient less nauseous—what gives balm to the language of resignation, and imparts the glow of pleasure to the wan and weary beggar, when she is, in each case, the ministering angel! Much is in the pitying look, much in the inclining gesture and softened manner; but still more in the tones of her voice, her low and smoothly uttered words of solace and of hope.

Why then should this instrument, which is capable of giving out such exquisite music, be jarred and discordant in its tones, through early neglect and bad habits. It has been said by European travellers of both sexes, that American women would be in all respects charming, but for their want of melody of voice in common speech. Surely this stigma, for such in one sense it is, might be, and ought to be removed, just as the flutter, agitation, and jerking movements of the body and limbs would be corrected, by appropriate exercise and training under tasteful guidance and precept.

Still more necessary is this kind of education where the imperfection amounts to disease, as in hesitancy, stammering, and other imperfect articulation. The cure requires time, patience on the part both of the invalid and of the vocal doctor, and practice in the manner which scientific experience, not impudent and boastful quackery, has shown to be most serviceable, so as to give that confidence which is the result of conscious ability. The timidity and feeling of embarrassment of the stammerer, are both effects and sustaining causes of his impediment. So soon as he knows that his vocal organs

are capable of obeying the commands of his will, and of giving expression to his thoughts, his mind acts with more energy and intentness; and he no longer allows himself to be trammelled in his speech, by the weak, tremulous and convulsive movements of the muscles, which, under less energetic volition, used to be so common with him.

When we wrote the caption of this article, we did not intend to direct the attention of our professional brethren merely to the existing evils, but were desirous to apprize them of the fact, that one of our own number has for many years past concentrated his talents and his time exclusively to the subject of Elocution, both in its hygienic relations with fluent speech in private and public, in the social circle and at the bar, the pulpit and the legislative hall and, also, in its curative character, to remove stammering and other impediments to clear and distinct articulation and utterance. The gentleman to whom we refer, is Dr. Andrew Comstock of this city. He makes no pretension to a knowledge of any specific for the cure of stammerers, nor does he attempt to shroud his method in unintelligible jargon, nor to conceal it from public and scientific investigation, by swearing his pupils to secrecy. All these are arts and tricks unworthy of the literary and professional character, and disreputable, above all, to him who professes to be a teacher, and in whom manly sincerity ought ever to shine conspicuously, as an example to those under his charge.

In Doctor Comstock's Institution, "Elocution is treated as a *science* as well as an *art*. The various movements of the voice, both in speech and song, are illustrated by original diagrams, and by oral instruction. The exercises give the pupil *complete* command of the muscles of articulation, extend the compass of the voice and render it smooth, powerful, and melodious. They not only call forth all the energies of the vocal organs, correct stammering, lisping, and other impediments of speech; but they *invigorate* the lungs, and consequently fortify them against the invasion of disease." To a certain extent, general is associated with vocal gymnastics; and one great cause of embarrassment from awkwardness of manner and posture in the stammerer, is removed by the substitution of a free and easy carriage and movements of the arms in gesticulation. In other words, all the voluntary muscles of the trunk and limbs move in the order required by the will, synchronously and harmoniously with those of the voice.

In proof that Doctor Comstock is above the petty arts of making elocution a mere craft and mystery, we have now before us, *Remarks on Stammering, from a Lecture on Elocution, delivered before the American Lyceum, May 6, 1837*, in which he explains the chief features of his system, and indicates the kind and order of exercises to be pursued for the cure of Stammerers. But like all other branches of professional knowledge, this can only be rendered efficient and applicable to the cure of individual cases by a *practitioner*, a person who directs knowingly and understandingly, and superintends carefully and patiently, the treatment, making such modifications as seem to be called for by his own personal experience and the idiosyncrasy of the patient.

## DR. COMSTOCK'S

### EXHIBITIONS IN VOCAL GYMNASTICS.

The STAMMERERS under Dr. Comstock, both Ladies and Gentlemen, give a variety of recitations, at the *Vocal Gymnasium*, (entrance by Ranstead Court, Fourth St. above Chesnut,) every Tuesday evening.

TICKETS, 25 cents each,—and may be obtained at Osborn's Music Store, Fourth Street, two doors below Ranstead Court. Each ticket admits a gentleman and two ladies. The exercises commence at 8 o'clock.

☞ The design of these Exhibitions is to give confidence to the Stammerer, which is so essential to his relief, and make the public better acquainted with the system of instruction and its beneficial results. The sale of tickets is to secure an audience of respectable persons, and defray the incidental expenses.

ANDREW COMSTOCK.

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### RECOMMENDATIONS.

*From the Public Ledger, February 6, 1838.*

### VOCAL GYMNASTICS.

A class of students in elocution, and stammerers, under Dr. Comstock, exhibited at the Vocal Gymnasium, (Ranstead Court, Fourth Street, above Chesnut,) on Saturday evening last. Dr. Comstock's lecture on elocution and stammering displayed an intimate knowledge of his subject, and the performances of the class did infinite credit to his talents as a teacher.

*From the Pennsylvanian, February 6, 1838.*

DR. COMSTOCK, the professor of elocution, gave an exhibition on Saturday evening, at the Temperance Hall, N. L., for the purpose chiefly of affording a practical explanation of his system of instruction, and showing its success in the cure of stammering and other defects of speech. A large audience, many ladies being among the number, was present, and the exercises evidently gave general satisfaction. It was surprising to hear the firmness and smoothness with which the pupils spoke, many of whom until recently were confirmed stammerers, and it was still more surprising to learn in how short a time the evil habit had been eradicated, the consciousness of a complete cure being strongly manifest in the modest confidence with which the Doctor's pupils, several of whom were young ladies, went through their recitations before so large an audience. It must not, however, be supposed that this system of instruction is intended solely for the stammerer. Founded upon sound philosophical principles it is important in many respects. It has a wonderful effect in developing the voice, and in giving it volume, flexibility and compass, while the practice of the elements strengthens the chest, and is very beneficial to the general health, fortifying it in a measure against the approach of diseases of the lungs. The advantage of vocal gymnastics judiciously conducted, is not yet perhaps fully appreciated, but it is more than probable that the time will come when they will form a part of every liberal course of instruction.

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*From the Public Ledger, February 16, 1838.*

#### VOCAL GYMNASTICS.

The exhibition of Dr. Comstock's class of Stammerers, at Temperance Hall, on Wednesday evening, was highly gratifying to a numerous and highly respectable audience of ladies and gentlemen. The system pursued appears to be calculated to accomplish the end in view; but the eminent success it has so far met with, is to be ascribed, in a great degree, to the talents of Dr. Comstock as a teacher.

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*From the Christian Advocate and Journal, New-York, April 27, 1838.*

PHILADELPHIA, April 2, 1838.

DEAR BRETHREN,—Having attended Dr. Comstock's exhibitions, I am fully persuaded, that with proper attention on the part of the pupils, he can cure them. I was induced to attend in consequence of his having in his class a particular friend of mine, whose case was one of the worst I ever knew and to my astonishment, he addressed an audience without the least difficulty, making quite a display as an orator. His age is about twenty-one years. If you feel at liberty to notice him in your paper, you may render essential service to stammerers. Respectfully,

J. HARMSTEAD.

*From the United States Gazette, April 30, 1838.*

#### STAMMERERS.

The recitations, and other vocal exercises, made on Tuesday evenings, at Dr. Comstock's Vocal Gymnasium, in Ranstead Court, furnish evidence of great success in his mode of teaching. His pupils, to the number of thirty or forty, male and female, give recitations in a style that shows, not only the entire absence of any disposition to stammer, but evincing also a striking proficiency in the agreeable, as well as useful science of elocution.

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*From the Pennsylvania Inquirer, May 10, 1838.*

#### STAMMERING.

A friend in whose judgment as well as impartiality we place reliance, speaks in terms of warm commendation of Dr. Comstock's success in curing impediments in speech, and imparting a free action to the organs of articulation. The public recitations of his class, which take place every Tuesday evening, at his room adjoining the Church in Ranstead Court, are spoken of as furnishing evidence of success in curing stammerers, as well as of striking proficiency in elocution, which Dr. C. teaches with great effect.

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*From the United States Gazette.*

MR. EDITOR,—I have attended two of the Vocal Gymnastic Exhibitions which have attracted so much attention in our city. The design of these exhibitions, as stated by Dr. Comstock, with whom they have originated, and by whom they are conducted, is to enable the stammerer to rid himself of that timidity which is a greater or less aggravation of his disease. If timidity in one who has *no* impediment of speech, interrupts the utterance of thoughts, surely in a *confirmed stammerer*, it must be a source of the highest degree of embarrassment to the vocal organs. Timidity, then, must be removed before the stammerer can have full command of his own organs of speech. To do this, Dr. Comstock brings his whole class, both *ladies* and gentlemen, before the crowded houses which assemble to hear the welkin ring with their various exercises in what is well denominated by Dr. C. VOCAL GYMNASTICS. Could art, science, experience, wisdom, or philosophy, suggest a more efficacious means for the destruction of timidity than the production of courage by individual and collective public speaking? Nor is the performance of these stammerers void of all powers to edify, and amuse—there is much to instruct, and please, both in manner and matter, in these exhibitions, which, for the sake of the great good they seem likely to produce to the afflicted stammerer, I hope will be fully sustained by this enlightened public.

A WELL WISHER to Freedom of Speech.

**PRACTICAL ELOCUTION, Or, A System of Vocal Gymnastics, comprising Diagrams, illustrative of the subject, and Exercises, designed for the Promotion of Health, the Cure of Stammering, and Improvement in Reading and Speaking. By ANDREW COMSTOCK, M. D. Second Edition. Kay & Brother, 122, Chesnut Street.**

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### RECOMMENDATIONS.

*From the Philadelphia Saturday Courier, Dec. 2, 1837.*

#### PRACTICAL ELOCUTION.

Dr. Comstock, a gentleman with whose name our readers are familiar as the scientific curer of Stammering, has issued a second edition of his work on Practical Elocution. It is believed to be the best practical work extant upon this important subject.

and so far as strengthening the lungs is concerned, the exercises it teaches are of vast importance. Those who do not intend to become orators, may cultivate and improve the conversational and colloquial powers, and secure a grace, ease and power, that will render them polished and sought-for intelligences in the mystic roads of social intercourse. The work is illustrated with engravings, and very beautifully got up both in paper and print.

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*From the Philadelphia Saturday News, Dec. 2, 1837.*

**PRACTICAL ELOCUTION, Or, A System of Vocal Gymnastics, &c. By ANDREW COMSTOCK, M. D.**

Dr. Comstock is known as a skilful and scientific teacher of elocution. He has devoted much study to the subject, and has had the advantage of very considerable experience in the practical application of his knowledge. His classes are generally filled with pupils, and their success is the best testimonial of the merits of his system.

This volume will be found a valuable aid to those who are engaged either in teaching or acquiring the important art of elocution. Besides a concise but sufficiently clear, analysis of the subject, and various explanatory details, it furnishes a series of diagrams calculated very much to facilitate the progress of the learners. These diagrams have been prepared with much care and labour, and reflect high praise on the industry and ability of Doctor Comstock.

*From the United States Gazette.*

### PRACTICAL ELOCUTION.

Messrs. Kay & Brother, 122, Chesnut street, have published a second edition of Dr. Andrew Comstock's PRACTICAL ELOCUTION, OR, A SYSTEM OF VOCAL GYMNASTICS. We really believe that the great labour and amount of time which Dr. C. has bestowed upon this volume, will be productive of essential benefits to the learner. The selections are apposite, and the remarks such as show the author master of his subject.

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*From the Saturday Chronicle, Philadelphiu, Dec. 2, 1837.*

PRACTICAL ELOCUTION.—*Kay & Brother.—Philadelphia.*

The volume now before us, comprises a system of "Vocal Gymnastics," by Andrew Comstock, M.D., and consists of diagrams, illustrative of the subject, and exercises. The plan recommended is designed for the promotion of health, cure of stammering, and improvement in reading and speaking. The rapid sale of its first edition seems to be a proof of its popularity; while several men of eminence in literature and science have pronounced Doctor Comstock's system a decided improvement upon the usual routine of teaching in Elocution.

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*From the Public Ledger, Philadelphia, Dec. 5, 1837.*

### COMSTOCK'S PRACTICAL ELOCUTION.

We have received from Dr. Andrew Comstock, of this city, a copy of his late work, entitled "Practical Elocution, or, a System of Vocal Gymnastics, comprising Diagrams and Exercises, &c., designed for the promotion of health, the cure of stammering, and improvement in reading and speaking."

This work contains rules for pronouncing all the vowels, sub-vowels, and diphthongs in the English language, with plates to illustrate the position of the mouth in pronouncing them. These sounds he denominates *elements*; and he gives tables exhibiting an analysis of words, consisting of both easy and difficult combinations of these elements. In spelling these words, the pupil is required to pronounce the *element* or vowel sound, and not the name of the letter or combination of letters which represent it, as is usual in the schools. The book also contains rules for every species of modulation and intonation of the voice, and of time, in reading, speaking, and singing.

It contains remarks on stammering, and rules for curing it; and practical lessons in reading and speaking, consisting of selections in prose and verse, printed with different characters, to denote the proper modulations. It also contains plates, representing every variety of attitude and gesture required in good speaking.



This must be a valuable work to those who would learn to read or speak well, and especially to those afflicted with stammering or other impediments of speech. It is useless to dilate upon the importance of elocution to all who have occasion to read or speak to others. To lawyers, legislators, clergymen, and speakers in public meetings, it is particularly important; for though to intelligent and well informed minds, the graces of manner add nothing to the force of argument, they are exceedingly important in securing an attentive hearing. An indifferent sermon, if well preached, will produce great effect, while one of the highest order, badly delivered, will be lost upon a great portion of the audience. This is entirely because the first secures the attention of its hearers, and thereby enables every argument or illustration to reach their understandings; while the second is not understood, because not heard.

We recommend Dr. Comstock's book to every person who would wish to speak or read well.

*From the Herald and Sentinel, Philadelphia, Dec. 11, 1837*

#### COMSTOCK'S PRACTICAL ELOCUTION.

Dr. Comstock has been long and favourably known in this city as a teacher of elocution. The art of public speaking is a common attainment; but the art of speaking effectively, powerfully, and well, by a proper discipline of voice, gesture and action, is no easy acquisition. The voice is a great instrument of influence. Some orators who have been "*vox et præterea nihil*," by means of a good voice alone, have been able to exercise an astonishing sway over their auditors. The full developement of the vocal organs should be a primary exercise with all ambitious for the honours of successful orators, and we know of no better disciplinarian in these matters than Dr. Comstock. The work before us, entitled "Practical Elocution," is an *expose* of his principles of teaching, and will serve as an instructive manual to those studying his method. It is better calculated, however, as a manual for his pupils, than for students in general. It shows great skill and industry, and is highly creditable to the knowledge and research of the author.

*From Atkinson's Saturday Evening Post, Dec. 16, 1837.*

Dr. ANDREW COMSTOCK, of this city, has published a second edition of a work entitled "Practical Elocution," of which he is the author. There are few subjects which receive less, while its importance demands a greater share of attention, than this of Elocution. Every organ of the human body is dependent on exercise for its true and proper developement. There are few persons who do not feel the embarrassment which arises from an imper

fect enunciation. The work before us conveys much valuable instruction on this subject. To render the doctrine it communicates more evident, the different movements of the voice are illustrated by original diagrams. Dr. Comstock has for some years been a successful teacher of Elocution, and in his experience has found the exercises in these diagrams happily adapted to render the muscles of speech subject to volition, to extend the compass of the voice and increase its power.

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*From the American Weekly Messenger, Dec. 20, 1837.*

Dr. COMSTOCK is well known in this city as a practical teacher of Elocution. His experience with his classes has given him great advantages in the preparation of this volume, which appears to be complete, so far as diagrams, marks expressive of the pronunciation of words, and minute practical directions, can render it so. To those persons who are so unfortunate as to have contracted a habit of stammering, and to foreigners who wish to acquire a correct pronunciation of our language, this volume will prove an invaluable acquisition. Students in oratory may consult the figures illustrative of gesture with advantage; and teachers of reading and declamation should not consider their libraries complete without this volume.

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*From the Daily Focus, Philadelphia, April 17, 1838.*

COMSTOCK'S PRACTICAL ELOCUTION: *Published by Kay & Brother, 122, Chestnut Street.*

We have received a very handsome edition of the above work, which we cheerfully recommend to young men, as a valuable assistant in the study of true oratory. The work is illustrated with a number of plates representing the proper position of the mouth in pronouncing, and also the most graceful and natural attitudes and gestures of the limbs and body, in order to give full force and expression to language.

Dr. Comstock has, in the book before us, proved himself abundantly qualified to teach the oral developement of thought, and we therefore wish he may continue his labours, and have large classes of pupils.

## MISCELLANEOUS RECOMMENDATIONS.

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*From the Public Ledger, Philadelphia, February 27, 1838.*

### VOCAL GYMNASTICS.

We observe, by a notice among our list of business cards this morning, that the residence of Dr. Comstock, whose success in the cure of impediments in the speech, and improvement in elocution and address of his pupils, we believe is unsurpassed by any instructor in the country, is at 100 Arch Street. Dr. C. possesses a double advantage over most of his profession, in his thorough acquaintance with the physical, as well as mental, capacity of his fellow man. The fourth exhibition of his class of young ladies and gentlemen, will be given this evening, at the Commissioners' Hall, Southwark, where, in addition to their various recitations, a lecture will be delivered by the Rev. Jacob M. Douglass.

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*From the Saturday Courier, Philadelphia, Dec. 15, 1838.*

Mr. John Taylor, of Hinsdale, N. H., was the other morning in our study and exhibited the wonderful improvement made by eleven weeks' residence with Dr. Comstock. He told us he had been all his life dreadfully troubled with an impediment of speech; but he read to us with the most perfect ease and freedom. We take pleasure in recording such cases for the benefit of others.

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*From the Daily Buffalo Journal, (N. Y.) March 27, 1839.*

### PRACTICAL ELOCUTION—A REMEDY FOR STAMMERING.

DR. COMSTOCK, of Philadelphia, has acquired great fame, both as a teacher of elocution, and as a successful practitioner in removing all defects in speech.

The voice is produced by muscular contraction, and hence depends wholly on the power of the muscles, which propel the air through the vocal organs, and modulate the same, for the strength, compass, distinctness, or confusion of the various sounds emitted in speaking or singing.

Dr. Comstock has investigated this subject in all its bearings, and pointed out, in a clear and scientific manner, the cause of stammering, and other defects of speech, in his work on Practical Elocution, (which has been some years before the public :) and has opened a school in Philadelphia for teaching elocution, and removing defects in speech, upon philosophical principles.

A late number of the *World*, published in the city of brotherly love, contains a very commendatory notice of the eminent ability and success which attend the labours of this learned and indefatigable practitioner, in an important branch of science, to the investigation of which his whole life has been devoted. Knowing well the history of this gentleman, and having once enjoyed the honour of a personal acquaintance, we do not hesitate to recommend his school as possessing the highest claims to public confidence.

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*Extract from the Lyceum Report, published in the World, Philadelphia, June 19, 1839.*

At 4½ o'clock the meeting was called to order, and a lecture delivered on Elocution, by Dr. Comstock, and an interesting exhibition by his class, several of whom had been inveterate stammerers; one in particular, a married gentleman from the east, (who said he had to do his courting by signs,) spoke so well, after only six weeks' instruction, as to prove Dr. C.'s teaching completely effectual.

Half-past 5 o'clock, the company, in fine health and spirits, adjourned.

G. W. WOOLLEY, Secretary, pro. tem.

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*From the United States Gazette, June 29, 1839.*

Sometime since, Dr. Comstock called on us with a person from Vermont, who had applied to him to be cured of stammering; he certainly needed help. Yesterday, the Doctor and his patient called on us again; the latter talked and read as fluently as any person we ever saw. The person to whom we refer, mentioned that he should now go home, and talk with a near relation, to whom he had never spoken, as she was rather deaf, and he had stammered so abominably as to be wholly unable to make her comprehend him.

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*From the Village Record, West Chester, Penn., September 10, 1839.*

### STAMMERING AND ELOCUTION.

From numerous testimonials of the success of Dr. Comstock, of Philadelphia, in improving the voice, particularly of Stammerers, we sometime since selected the following from a Philadelphia paper, for presentation to our readers. To those afflicted with an impediment of the speech, all discoveries, or efficient modes for amending the vocal organs, must be matter of peculiar interest. We have repeatedly visited the institution of Dr. C., and have seen numerous instances of improvement no less striking than the one referred to below. Dr. C. is unremitting in his attention to his pupils; exact in his exposition of the principles of elocution; and affords to his pupils a wide range for practice. As a teacher, he commands the respect of his pupils, while his gentlemanly deportment towards them is sure to win their permanent esteem. His office is at No. 100 Arch Street, Philadelphia.

"MR CHARLES R. READ, from Vermont, called upon us, and read as fluently as any one. Eight weeks since we conversed with the same gentleman, and he could not articulate a sentence without stammering badly. He had been afflicted from his infancy. His mother stammered, and he has a sister who is also subject to the same infirmity. Mr. Read tells us he intends to send her to the care of Dr. Comstock, who has been so successful in his own case. We look upon it as doing stammerers a kindness, by constantly keeping them advised of such important facts."—*Saturday Courier*.

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*From the Philadelphia Gazette, October 5, 1839.*

### VOCAL GYMNASTICS.

We attended an exhibition of DR. COMSTOCK'S class of stammerers last evening, at the Temperance Hall, N. L., and were much pleased with the exercises. We believe that Dr. C.'s system is well calculated to accomplish the very desirable relief so much needed by those afflicted with a hesitancy of speech. One individual, who had been under tuition but *nine* days, gave ample testimony of the efficiency of the system.

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*From the Pennsylvania Inquirer, Philadelphia, Nov. 22, 1839.*

### A STAMMERER CURED.

We were called upon yesterday by a gentleman of Bradford county, Pa., thirty-seven years of age, who, until within a month, had been an inveterate stammerer from childhood. A few weeks since, however, he was induced to place himself under the care of Doctor Comstock, of this city, who speedily effected a perfect cure. The gentleman called upon us to illustrate the excellence of the system, in his own case; and, also, with the object of making some public acknowledgment of the great and important benefit that had been conferred. He spoke with ease and fluency, and recited one or two passages of poetry, with taste and discrimination. Those of our citizens, however, who desire the most satisfactory evidence of the effects of this system, are invited to visit the Musical Fund Hall, on Monday evening next, when Dr. Comstock and his class of stammerers will give a variety of exercises and recitations.

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*From the Public Ledger, November 25, 1839.*

Dr. Comstock's exhibition of Vocal Gymnastics takes place at the Musical Fund Hall, this evening, November 25, at half-past seven o'clock.—It gives us pleasure to recommend the Doctor's system of instruction, which, after cool examination, we believe to be excellent and unrivalled. The performances of his pupils, who were formerly stammerers, are truly astonishing.—Let every one judge for himself. We were pleased to see his former exhibition, at Temperance Hall, attended by a crowd of ladies and gentlemen.

*From the North American, Philadelphia, March 19, 1840.*

Dr. Comstock left with us yesterday for exhibition, one of his charts representing the mouth in every form and position which it seems to be enabled to assume in the enunciation of sounds. Attached to it are scales for the modulation of the voice, which are of great service to the student. The success which has attended Dr. Comstock's instructions, has been of the most striking character.

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*From the Philadelphia Gazette, March 21, 1840.*

Dr. Comstock, elocutionist of this city, has published a large chart, mounted on rollers and varnished, entitled "A Table of the Elements of the English Language." This table condenses, as it were, the instruction of a half years' study, in the useful and requisite art of elocution. It should be hung up in the library of every orator, or every one who would be an orator, whether of the Pulpit or the Bar. If one is naturally an orator, it will assist in developing those powers; if he is not, an assiduous study of the chart will make him one. Pebbles helped DEMOSTHENES, until the wide round world was vocal with his name; and why should not a map of mounted eloquence do the same, to some one in the nineteenth century?

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*From the Pennsylvanian, March 24, 1840.*

ELOCUTION.—Dr. Comstock, of this city, has published a large chart mounted upon rollers, entitled "A Table of the Elements of the English Language." This Table gives, in a condensed form, and as it were, at a single view, the principles upon which Dr. Comstock's system of instruction in elocution is founded, and as he is eminently successful in making good speakers, and in curing defects in articulation, the chart will doubtless be found very serviceable both to his pupils and to others.

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*From the Inquirer, Philadelphia, March 30, 1840.*

Dr. COMSTOCK'S TABLE.—Dr. Andrew Comstock, of this city, has published a Table of the Elements of the English Language, which appears to us admirably suited to facilitate boys in their exercises of reading and improvement of gesticulation. For stammerers, and those affected with impediments of speech, it possesses great merit. Indeed, the chart is particularly calculated for schools, and embodies, in a single sheet, an entire system, very simple in its operation, and the result of years of labour. Dr. Comstock has deservedly acquired much reputation, in Philadelphia, as a successful teacher in the particular branch to which he devotes his attention.

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*From the United States Gazette, Philadelphia, April 15, 1840.*

Dr. Comstock has issued a large sheet, containing the Elements of the English Language, with illustrations of the mode of uttering simple and compound sounds, figures exemplifying the gestures for certain recitations, and *mots* or notes for the pitch and government of the voice in reading.

Dr. Comstock has been eminently successful as a teacher of elocution, because he teaches radically; and, as a curer of stuttering, we believe Dr. C. has never been excelled.

*From the World, Philadelphia, March 20, 1839.*

**DR. COMSTOCK.**—We have received from the author a small pamphlet, containing a Lecture on Elocution, with remarks on stammering, delivered before the American Lyceum in this city, on the 6th of May, 1837, by Dr. Comstock. He is well known in this city, as remarkably successful in the cure of all defects in speech, and also for teaching elocution upon philosophical principles. His school contains pupils from various and distant parts of the country, resorting to him for the cure of stammering and other vocal defects.

He has published a work on Practical Elocution, the perusal of which will show that his lessons are important to others besides those afflicted with stammering; for all public speakers, whether lawyers, preachers or politicians, will derive advantages from observing his rules. The voice, like any other part of the system connected with voluntary muscular action, is susceptible of cultivation. It is regulated by a very complicated system of muscles, and must therefore be more or less under command, in proportion to the control of the individual over these muscles. Why are the muscles of a blacksmith's striking arm larger than those of his holding arm? Because they are more exercised. Why have porters, stage drivers, and those whose legs are most exercised, larger femoral and crural muscles, than people of sedentary habits? For the same reason. Then if one set of muscles is improved by cultivation, so may be another; and therefore, as the voice is regulated by muscular action, it must necessarily be improved by proper exercise.

This theory, which, as every anatomist knows, is founded on fact, explains the whole system of stammering and other vocal defects. They proceed from paralysis, weakness, or other causes, producing want of control over the vocal muscles. Such defects in the leg or arm, produce lameness in these limbs. Similar defects or infirmities in the vocal muscles, must produce lameness of the voice. This point established, the indication of cure is obvious. It consists in restoring activity to the vocal muscles by *exercise*, by cultivation. Singers never stammer, and stammering is often cured by singing. Why? Because singing gives active exercise to the vocal muscles. But it will not always cure stammering, because the defect may be in certain muscles which singing cannot reach, or reach with sufficient force. To supply the deficiency, we need the professor of elocution, who understands the voice anatomically, physiologically, and pathologically, or in other words, who understands the structure, actions, and diseases of the parts of the human system subservient to the voice. Dr. Comstock has particularly studied this subject, and his success as a practitioner proves that he has studied it faithfully.

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I most cheerfully endorse the preceding certificates relative to Dr. Comstock's success in removing impediments of speech. Having spent several weeks in his Gymnasium, for the purpose of improving my voice, and of removing an impediment to which I had always been more or less subject, I am able to speak both from observation and experience. I consider his system of vocal gymnastics eminently fitted to accomplish the end designed: viz. to bring the organs of speech, by a thorough course of drilling, entirely under the control of volition. True it is, that much energy and perseverance, as well as time and patience, are necessary on the part of the afflicted in order to be entirely relieved. But I am confident that where there is no mal-formation of the vocal organs, an entire cure may be effected.

F. W. FISK.

*Philadelphia, April 27th, 1840.*

*From the Philadelphia Saturday Courier, April 3, 1841.*

### CURE OF STAMMERING.

Two young gentlemen called in our sanctum the other morning, and we had a pleasant conversation with them on the extraordinary benefit they had derived from having been a few weeks in the Vocal Gymnasium of Dr. Comstock. One of them, John Scribner, jr., is from Poplin, N. H. He told us, that fourteen weeks ago he could not converse at all without stammering in the pronunciation of almost every word. He conversed with us the morning we saw him, as fluently as Daniel Webster or Mr. Forsyth could; and we should say his friends will be delighted to hold converse with him on his return to the salubrious atmosphere of the "Granite State." The other young gentleman is Mr. William H. Cornell, of Clinton, New York. He is eighteen years old, and had been a stammerer all his life, until Dr. Comstock had the gratification of receiving him under his discipline of the vocal powers. He has been there but four weeks, and conversed with us with very little impediment of speech; and by the first of May, when he proposes to return to the beautiful region of Dutchess county, he will be able to descant upon the sweets of the "buds and the flowers" with as much buoyancy of speech as the most lovely young damsel around his romantic home. We are happy in stating such cases, for the encouragement of others in distant portions of the country, who may be labouring under the painful difficulties which impediments of speech impose.

*From the National Gazette, Philadelphia, Nov. 17, 1841.*

### A STAMMERER CURED.

PHILADELPHIA, NOV. 10, 1841.

MESSRS. EDITORS—For nearly twenty years I was an inveterate stammerer. The habit was contracted when I was four years old, in consequence of the severe treatment of a schoolmaster. Being anxious to have a cure effected, if possible, but almost despairing, I placed myself, six weeks ago, under the care of Dr. Andrew Comstock of this city, and the result has been a most happy one. Since the third day after I entered his Vocal Gymnasium, I have been able to converse with friends and strangers, without any impediment whatever. I unhesitatingly recommend all who stammer to make a trial of Dr. C.'s mode of treatment. It is founded on philosophical principles, and I feel confident, if persevered in, will always produce the same beneficial results as my own case. I shall reside, during the winter, at No. 200 Arch Street, where I shall be happy to receive a visit from any one who may desire farther information on the subject.

Respectfully,

LEVI S. YATES, of Williamston, N. C.,  
Student of Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania.

*From the Philadelphia Saturday Courier, July 21, 1838.*

### STAMMERERS.

WE notice as an interesting fact, that C. H. J. Pigman, Esq., (a young gentleman who was recently in our office, while under the care of Dr. Comstock, for stammering,) delivered the oration at Cumberland, Md., on the 4th instant. It was a clear and distinct performance, and was well received by a large auditory. A copy in print has been received by us. The *Civilian* of that place remarks, that the enunciation of Mr. Pigman is so clear, that if it had not previously been known that he had laboured severely under an impediment, none who hear him speak would be aware that he had ever been troubled with such a difficulty. Mr. Pigman and his friends (who are highly respectable), unite in bestowing great credit upon the scientific skill of Dr. Comstock. We think we do unfortunate stammerers a kindness by commending this gentleman to their consideration.



We always thought Dr. Comstock's system for the cure of Stammering a sealed book, because it was so certain; he has, however, in the plenitude of his benevolence, and for a small consideration, surrendered his knowledge and experience for the more general benefit of the world. He has here collected and widely diffused all that he has heretofore published upon this subject, and by well-executed plates illustrated what is not, as well as what is correct in gesture, &c., for which we doubt not the heads of our public schools will be duly grateful, as affording them facilities and suggestions in a very important branch of education, which they could not before command.

The eminent success of Dr. C. in his practical teachings, is the only commendation the present work can require, and we understand its merits are fully appreciated, if we are to judge from an extensive demand by several of our most distinguished Professors.

We may also remark, that the work is enriched by numerous selections from the writings of the most celebrated authors, to be spoken in the elocutionary exercises, with marks indicating the proper time of emphasis.

*Saturday Courier, Philadelphia, Dec. 11, 1841.*

A good system for breaking up the stiff jaws of a speaker, and rounding the sharp angles in his uncouth gestures—two embarrassments under which many labour, and which few thoroughly overcome. We may laugh at Dr. Comstock's mouths and gestures as much as we please, but it is only by such mouths and gestures that one becomes a graceful speaker.

*North American, Philadelphia, Dec. 11, 1841.*

Dr. Comstock has devoted many years sedulously to the study of Elocution, not merely as a declamatory art, but as a science comprehending all the phenomena of the voice, and the means by which it may be most successfully cultivated for all the purposes of speaking. We have examined, with some attention, the first part of Dr. Comstock's book, and find that in treating of elementary sounds, he advances precepts evincing an intelligent analysis of vocal utterance,—a subject very lightly passed over in ordinary text-books upon Elocution. The whole subject of the book appears to have been digested with equal knowledge and care, and we would commend to teachers the adoption of his system, as based upon a true comprehension of the powers and uses of the organs of speech, and the modes of graceful and appropriate action in oratorical exercises. Various plates illustrate the text, and enable intelligent readers to apprehend the principles of oral delivery and gesture without the aid of a special preceptor.

*National Gazette, Philadelphia, Dec. 13, 1841.*

The experience of Dr. Comstock as a Professor of Elocution, and his eminent success in the cure of stammering and other defects of speech, as well as the warm commendations of gentlemen in whose judgment the utmost reliance may be placed, justify us in recommending this work to all who are desirous of acquiring the art of reading or speaking with ease, grace and power.

*American Sentinel, Philadelphia, Dec. 13, 1841.*

We have found time to look with some care into Dr. Comstock's text book, and have been led to admire the plan and general execution. The author has brought to his subject a willing mind, "and long experience makes him sage."

Numerous pieces of great strength, are illustrated for gesticulation, by engravings that are well executed, and which give a very correct idea to the reader of the motions to be used in an open, free reading of the speech.

The remarks and notation of the compiler are excellent, and give, so far as we could examine, a correct view of the pauses, volume of voice, and accentuation.

We commend Dr. Comstock's volume to the consideration of teachers and of learners. *United States Gazette, Philadelphia, Dec. 14, 1841.*

We have a distinct recollection of a tall, smiling gentleman, who, when we were a white-pated shaver going to school, used to come tri-weekly to the academy, and standing up duly before us, make us gesticulate, pronounce, read, and deliver speeches until we thought our arms would be jerked from their sockets, or that our lungs at least would give way. But we are living still, and so is our smiling friend Dr. Comstock. He has turned author too, and our table even now bears witness to that fact, in the presence of an admirable treatise on elocution by our former teacher.

No man, perhaps, in the United States understands so well how to cure stammering as Dr. Comstock. His success in this department has been almost miraculous. Yet he does not seek to hide his secret "under a bushel," but, with true benevolence, has made it public in the work before us. The volume also treats generally of elocution, gesticulation, &c. &c., and should be the study of every one desirous of becoming an orator, or even of reading well. The work is illustrated by numerous figures, displaying every position to be assumed in pronouncing a speech. Indeed, we have never seen a more complete treatise of the kind, and we cordially recommend it to parents, teachers, and others, as a work especially deserving support. Next to the privilege of being a pupil of the doctor is the privilege of purchasing his book.

*Saturday Evening Post, Philadelphia, Dec. 18, 1841.*

The system of Dr. Comstock is peculiar, and we cannot speak intelligently on it, because it cannot be understood without a study, which we are unable to give to it. We can however say, that it appears to us to be founded on philosophical principles, and to be exceedingly well illustrated in parts which we readily comprehend. Dr. Comstock is not a mere theorist; he is eminently a practical man, and in the application of his principles he has been very successful in developing the powers of elocution, and in the cure of defective exercise of the organs of speech

*Presbyterian, Philadelphia, Dec. 18, 1841.*

This work contains some new and plausible principles, and it is embellished by numerous diagrams and engraved figures, illustrative of the subject. We have never seen a work of this kind published in a more elegant manner. *Philadelphia Gazette, Dec. 21, 1841*

This is one of the most elaborate works on Elocution ever published in our country, containing the results of much study and attention to the subject, and a thorough acquaintance with the philosophy of the human voice. Its several parts are systematically arranged—and its rules are illustrated to the eye by numerous diagrams. It is well adapted to meet the wants of schools and colleges as well as to direct private individuals, who would improve themselves in reading and speaking.

*Christian Observer, Philadelphia, Jan. 7, 1842.*

The politeness of the author has placed before us his "SYSTEM OF ELOCUTION," but from a hurried glance at its contents, we are not able to say as much for it as its merits demand; however we have seen sufficient to be enabled to recommend it particularly to the heads of families and schools, who cannot fail to find it an invaluable auxiliary in the various subjects of which it treats. Its divisions comprise Elocution, Vocal Gymnastics, Gesture, Practical Elocution, being exercises in articulation, pitch, force, time and gesture, and exercises in reading and declamation. The engravings are exceedingly numerous, and admirably adapted to the purposes for which they are designed.

*Catholic Herald, Philadelphia, Jan. 20, 1842.*

Dr. Comstock has been long and favourably known in this city, and elsewhere, as a distinguished and successful teacher of Elocution. His system views that important, yet so sadly neglected, branch of education, as both a *science* and an *art*. His principles are founded on truth and nature, and in their practical application he is evidently master of his subject. Friends, in whose judgment we place reliance, speak of him as a teacher in terms of high commendation. The work we have just noticed is a new edition, with special reference to gesture, to the treatment of stammering, and defective articulation; comprising numerous diagrams and engraved figures, illustrative of the subject.

*Banner of the Cross, Philadelphia, Feb. 5, 1842.*

COMSTOCK'S SYSTEM OF ELOCUTION, for sale by S. S. & W. Wood.—This is a most excellent book, containing a system of elocution, with special reference to gesture. It has a great number of cuts, descriptive of the plan, and is admirably calculated for the learner. It ought to be made a school-book, and be in the possession of every seminary.

*New York Express, March 2, 1842.*

*Philadelphia, Dec. 10, 1841*

Dr. A. Comstock, }  
Philadelphia. }

Dear Sir—I am much obliged to you for the copy which you were so kind as to send me of your "*System of Elocution*." I find your book admirably adapted to the object for which it is intended.

I am very respectfully, Dear Sir,

your obedient servant,

CHARLES PICOT.

*From the Rev. Thomas B. Bradford.*

PHILADELPHIA, April 4, 1842.

I take great pleasure in recommending Dr. Comstock's SYSTEM OF ELOCUTION. A practical acquaintance with the system, and with the instructions of its author, enables me to speak with confidence of the high superiority of this treatise, and of the ample qualifications of its author as an instructor in the art of speaking.

His course of instruction is exactly adapted to the cure of stammerers and my personal knowledge of the cure of those who have been thus afflicted, warrants me in particularly recommending such individuals to place themselves under the tuition of Dr. Comstock.

T. B. BRADFORD.

*From E. C. Wines, A. M., late Professor of Moral, Mental, and Political Science in the Central High School of Philadelphia.*

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 22d, 1842.

I take pleasure in stating that Dr. A. Comstock taught Elocution in my school during the whole of last year, and that his SYSTEM OF ELOCUTION was used as a text-book. I consider it a work of very great merit, admirably adapted to the end for which it was designed. The principles of the science are laid down with clearness and ability in the First Part; and the selections for practice in the Second Part are made with excellent judgment. It is a work every way worthy of the public patronage.

The progress of the pupils in my school under Dr. Comstock's instruction was altogether satisfactory. He fully sustained his high reputation as a teacher of practical elocution.

E. C. WINES.

*From S. W. Crawford, A. M., Principal of the Academy connected with the University of Pennsylvania.*

I have examined Dr. Comstock's ELOCUTION, and agree with Mr Wines in the above recommendation.

S. W. CRAWFORD.

*From the Pennsylvania Law Journal, Dec. 10, 1842.*

We acknowledge the receipt of a copy of this valuable work; and although a treatise on elocution cannot be regarded as a law-book, the subject of vocal delivery is so nearly connected with the practice of the law, that we willingly accord to this volume a notice in our Journal.

Doctor Comstock has been long known to both the editors as a successful teacher of the subjects treated in his book. He has, perhaps, paid greater and more intelligent attention to defects of articulation, and to the cure of them, than any other person in the United States. And while certificates from Professor W. E. Horner and other members of

the Faculty, attest that Dr. Comstock's "System is founded upon an exact anatomical and physiological information in regard to the organs concerned in the production and modification of sound," numberless testimonials from pupils residing in every part of the Union, show that he has been equally successful in the more rare, though not less important part of the teacher's office; we mean, imparting his science with practical effect. A long and intimate acquaintance with the Dr. enables the editors to vouch for the truth of what is thus attested, and yet more, to bear a ready testimonial to Dr. Comstock's merits as an amiable, gentlemanly, and conscientious man.

We have, indeed, often lamented the gross, and, to an ear of any susceptibility, the distressing inattention to delivery so generally prevalent in the pulpits and at the bar, in this country. How surprising, in this day of almost universal accomplishment, that in professions whose common object is persuasion through the medium of the voice, the management of "this mighty instrument for touching the heart of man," should be so much disregarded! should be treated in one profession as useless, in the other as almost impious!

How many a DIVINE, whose sermon was replete with learning, with piety, with all the refinements of graceful composition, has sent away a ready (perhaps an anxious) hearer, disgusted with the unimpressive, nay, sometimes the sickening manner in which the preacher's sentiments were delivered! while a Maffet or a Kirk is followed by thousands whose slumbering sensibilities are first awakened to the majesty of the gospel truth, by the commanding power of an impressive voice!

How many a JURY has thought a speaker's argument without force, because his manner was so; and have found a verdict against law and against evidence, because they had been charmed into delusion by the potent fascination of some gifted orator!

Who, indeed, that has listened to the ennobled voice of Kemble, to the chastened recitation of a Wood, to the air-dropt accents of Mrs. Seymour, or the sternly pleasing power of Ellen Tree; who, that seeking a better school, may have hearkened to the unsurpassed discourses of a Wainwright, rising, now, to fervour almost apostolic, sometimes sinking into gentleness unearthly, has not acknowledged the power of *educated tone* to awaken an eloquent response from the chords of human feeling? Who has not felt, on such occasion, "that when, in connection with a more careful culture of our moral being, the voice shall be trained to a more perfect manifestation of its powers, a charm, hitherto unfelt, will be lent to the graceful pleasures of life, and an influence of almost untried efficacy to its serious occasions!"

Let, then, our preachers leave the towering heights of their divinity, and strive to present its humbler truths in more graceful garb. Let our lawyers, not neglecting the weightier matters of the law, attend to those embellishments of argument which, with half our race, often prove more effective than argument itself.

The Author acknowledges the receipt of a recommendation from J. E. MURDOCH, Esq., the well-known elocutionist of Boston; and he regrets that want of room prevents its insertion here. Mr. Murdoch has adopted the work as a text-book in his VOCAL AND ATHLETIC INSTITUTE.

*From the Rev. Henry W. Ducachet, M. D., D. D.*

PHILADELPHIA, June 26th, 1843.

ANDREW COMSTOCK, M. D.

Dear Sir—I have very carefully read the “SYSTEM OF ELOCUTION,” &c. published by you. Indeed, ever since I have become acquainted with the work, I have made it a book of reference on that subject. It seems to me admirably well adapted to the purposes for which it is designed. I have, indeed, no experience in the treatment of “stammering,” or “defective articulation.” But your rules for their cure appear very natural, and I think cannot fail, in ordinary cases, to be successful. For myself, I can say that I have derived from your work, some hints that have been most useful to me as a public speaker. I hope the book will be appreciated as it deserves, and that you will go on to reap a rich harvest of reputation and profit from your valuable labours in that much neglected, but very important art.

Very respectfully, your ob’t serv’t,

HENRY W. DUCACHET,  
Rector of St. Stephen’s Church, Philadelphia.

*From G. W. Francis, A. M., Principal of a Family Boarding School, Troy, N. Y.; and C. H. Anthony, Esq., Principal of the Albany Classical Institute, Albany, N. Y.*

We have used Dr. Comstock’s SYSTEM OF ELOCUTION for some time in our schools, and we do not hesitate to give it the preference to any system with which we are acquainted.

G. W. FRANCIS.  
C. H. ANTHONY.

Troy, N. Y., Feb. 2d, 1844.

*From the Faculty of the University of Michigan.*

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, APRIL 20, 1845.

We have examined Dr. Comstock’s System of Elocution with some care, and we are fully persuaded that it is better adapted to assist pupils in acquiring a correct, easy and forcible enunciation than any other work with which we are acquainted.

JOSEPH WHITING, A. M.

Professor of Languages.

A. TENBROOK, A. M.

Professor of Mental and Moral Philosophy

GEO. P. WILLIAMS, A. M.

Professor of Mathematics

O. C. COMSTOCK, A. M., M. D.

Superintendent of Public Instruction. Michigan.

*From the Rev. Henry W. Ducachet, M. D., D. D.*

PHILADELPHIA, June 26th, 1843.

ANDREW COMSTOCK, M. D.

Dear Sir—I have very carefully read the “SYSTEM OF ELOCUTION,” &c. published by you. Indeed, ever since I have become acquainted with the work, I have made it a book of reference on that subject. It seems to me admirably well adapted to the purposes for which it is designed. I have, indeed, no experience in the treatment of “stammering,” or “defective articulation.” But your rules for their cure appear very natural, and I think cannot fail, in ordinary cases, to be successful. For myself, I can say that I have derived from your work, some hints that have been most useful to me as a public speaker. I hope the book will be appreciated as it deserves, and that you will go on to reap a rich harvest of reputation and profit from your valuable labours in that much neglected, but very important art.

Very respectfully, your ob’t serv’t,

HENRY W. DUCACHET,  
Rector of St. Stephen’s Church, Philadelphia.

*From G. W. Francis, A. M., Principal of a Family Boarding School, Troy, N. Y.; and C. H. Anthony, Esq., Principal of the Albany Classical Institute, Albany, N. Y.*

We have used Dr. Comstock’s SYSTEM OF ELOCUTION for some time in our schools, and we do not hesitate to give it the preference to any system with which we are acquainted.

G. W. FRANCIS.  
C. H. ANTHONY.

Troy, N. Y., Feb. 2d, 1844.

*From the Faculty of the University of Michigan.*

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, APRIL 20, 1845.

We have examined Dr. Comstock’s System of Elocution with some care, and we are fully persuaded that it is better adapted to assist pupils in acquiring a correct, easy and forcible enunciation than any other work with which we are acquainted.

JOSEPH WHITING, A. M.  
Professor of Languages.

A. TENBROOK, A. M.  
Professor of Mental and Moral Philosophy.

GEO. P. WILLIAMS, A. M.  
Professor of Mathematics.

O. C. COMSTOCK, A. M., M. D.  
Superintendent of Public Instruction. Michigan

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,  
MONROE, May 15, 1847.

DEAR SIR

I received by yesterday's mail, "Comstock's Phonetic Reader," and "Speaker." I had before in my possession (received from some unknown source) your "Treatise on Phonology," No. 1, and the 1st, 2d, 3d, 7th, and 9th Nos. of your "Phonetic Magazine."

I was unable to give any attention to these works when first received. When I got a little time to devote to the subject, I took up the Treatise on Phonology, and I was unable to lay it down until I had completed its perusal. I placed it in the hands of my children, and judge what was my surprise to hear a daughter not yet six years old, read the first chapter of Genesis fluently, in less than one hour from the time she first saw a Phonetic character!

I wish you every possible success in your efforts to facilitate the acquisition of the English language. Permit me, sir, to express the hope that, when you shall have prepared the necessary elementary books, Phonology will become a common branch of study in the primary schools of this, and other States of the Union.

Very truly yours,

IRA MAYHEW, *Sup't. Public Instruction.*

TO ANDREW COMSTOCK, M. D., PHILADELPHIA.

*A Letter from J. K. MITCHELL, M. D., the Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine, in Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, and a Member of the American Philosophical Society.*

PHILADELPHIA, June 28, 1851.

ANDREW COMSTOCK, M. D.

Dear Sir—From a critical examination of your great theory of phonetics, I am glad to find that the system has already attained to completion. To me it is truly gratifying to learn that an alphabet exists which is strictly representative, not only of all the sounds, but of their various modifications in speech, in every language in which books are written upon the arts and sciences. I am glad to perceive this, because I consider a universal alphabet of the greatest value to the civilized world. A knowledge of your system enables the student, at once and always, to read every book printed conformably to it, not only in English, but in French, German, Latin, Greek, Spanish, Italian, &c. The greatest obstacle to the acquisition of one's vernacular, or any other language, is thus entirely removed, and the learner finds the only insuperable impediment to self-instruction totally obviated. Not only will your system of phonetics do these things, but it will produce that uniformity of pronunciation so desirable and so elegant.

I esteem your efforts of the greatest value, because I perceive that the dream of Franklin has become, in your hands, a profound reality.

I remain, dear sir, truly yours,

J. K. MITCHELL.



*A Letter from the Rev. Samuel Aaron, Principal of Tree Mount  
Seminary.*

NORRISTOWN, Pa., July 18, 1848.

DR. A. COMSTOCK:

My Dear Sir,—Although so little given to puffing that I have not for years even advertised my own school, a sense of duty compels me to notice in terms of the highest commendation the truly benevolent and philosophical efforts you are making to diffuse the knowledge and establish the use of *the perfect alphabet*.

As a teacher of young men and boys for many years, I have had a laborious and most painful experience in inculcating the thousands of absurdities and irregularities in English orthography. To stamp on the memory of youth a jargon imposed on us all by the authority of lexicographers, is an undertaking about equally hateful in the labor, hopeless in the prospect, and stupid in the accomplishment. The contradictions and enigmas in spelling are well adapted to beget in bright youths a persuasion, that the chain of knowledge, instead of being a series of beautifully connected links, is a tissue of tangled knots and kinks, and that teachers are a pack of arbitrary blockheads. A dull boy *never* learns to spell; a smart and willing one acquires the art after many years as a *hateful conventional necessity*.

Your alphabet, very agreeable to the eye, and, for aught I see, complete in the elementary sounds, can be learned in a few days by any one not an idiot; and then distinct reading follows in a few days more. I have no doubt a sprightly child, ignorant of all letters, could be taught by its use to read slowly but surely in one week; while now such reading is a work of years, and spelling is almost never learned.

I must commend your alphabet for its good appearance. Without meaning to disparage the "Anglo-Saxon," which I now receive, and with high respect for its conductors, I am free to say that the beautiful page of your New Testament is vastly superior to any other phonotypy I have seen.

It is perfectly truthful, but may seem like flattery, to say that your intelligent and tireless zeal in advancing this great reform, has no parallel so far as I know, and will doubtless be better rewarded by your own consciousness of benevolence and right intention than by any eulogy of mine. You will meet with much opposition, be ridiculed by the stupid, the conservative will inveigh against your "*mad innovation*," the literary bigot will dread the loss of his occupation, but time, perseverance, and the common sense of the world, will effect your triumph.

I heartily approve the publication of your intended monthly, and I hope it may soon be read and appreciated by many thousands.

My school will take sixty copies for one year; and be assured my pupils generally are as cordial as myself in the hope of your success.

Direct a copy to Dr. Dunlap, Norristown, your former pupil.

I am sincerely your affectionate friend,

SAMUEL AARON.

## STAMMERING CURED.

## STAMMERING CURED.

*A Letter from Mrs. Mann, of Zanesville, Ohio, to Dr. A. Comstock, of Philadelphia.*

ZANESVILLE, Ohio, March 20, 1852.

DR. COMSTOCK : —

Dear Sir,—Having waited a sufficient length of time to test my daughter's acquirements in reference to her freedom of speech, I seat myself to acknowledge the extreme delight and satisfaction I have experienced in finding her capable of expressing herself with ease and freedom from any thing like stammering. Occasionally, when very much excited, I can detect a very slight embarrassment, which does not, however, amount to a stammer; and I believe it would never be observed by persons unacquainted with her former impediment.

It is but due to you, sir, to acknowledge that your labors have accomplished more than my most sanguine expectations could have looked for; and were I to attempt to express my gratitude and thankfulness for the inestimable benefit she has derived from your system of teaching, I should utterly fail of doing yourself, or my own feelings, justice. My daughter has told me of your fatherly care and persevering efforts for her benefit. I doubt not but you will believe me, when I say that I, as a mother, know how to appreciate such demonstrations of true honor. Yours is, emphatically, a labor of love; and, whilst I most sincerely desire to express my gratitude to you as the instrument of incalculable good to my child, I wish humbly to recognize the hand of Providence in pointing to you in answer to a long-cherished desire to place her somewhere, where she could be cured of so unfortunate an embarrassment. I am much pleased with the improvement she has made in Elocution and French. I have always esteemed Elocution not only a very beautiful, but also a very essential accomplishment—and to Annie it is doubly so. Annie's improvement in music is perfectly satisfactory. I very soon observed the great improvement in fingering. I am, with much esteem, your sincere friend,

ANN M. MANN.

[From the Providence Daily Journal.]

## THE PHONETIC ALPHABET.

*To the Editor of the Journal:*

I have lately had the pleasure of meeting with Dr. Comstock, of Philadelphia, well known throughout the United States as one of the greatest elocutionists of the day, and also renowned for the success he has met with in curing stammering and various other imperfections of speech. But I wish to speak of him now in relation to one of the most practical inventions of modern times, a new Alphabet for the English language. Dr. Comstock is a man deeply versed in philological lore, and has made this subject his study for years. He has at length matured it and given it to the world as the result of his investigations into the regions of thought and deep practical sense. Any one who has at all looked into the *science* of the English language, must have seen at once, that, as a language, it is (though one of the noblest in the world) sadly deficient in rules and laws. In fact, there is no law, no rule, in relation to the pronunciation of words, as may be seen from the fact that the letters *a-u-g-h*, for instance, are pronounced in *seven* different ways, and that it is only through common usage that it is known which of these seven ways is correct. Now a foreigner and a stranger to our language knows nothing of common usage; he must learn the language by *rule*; but how can he know the proper pronunciation of a word, when he sees seven different words, with what seems to him the same combination of letters, and yet is told they are pronounced in seven different ways! This very great difficulty, and to many persons an insurmountable one, Dr. Comstock's new alphabet is designed to meet and to obviate. He has a character for each of the elementary sounds in the English language; and any one, by paying attention to the characters, may learn very readily to read by them.

But some objectors may say, Will not this alphabet, if introduced generally, change our language entirely? To this I answer by another question. Is not our language constantly changing? Is it by any means the same as it was two hundred years ago, to say nothing of going still farther back? Do not books, published then, require a dictionary to tell us the meaning of many of the words, and is not the way of spelling them quite obsolete now? But let the new alphabet be used, and there is, there can be no change; for, by this, every word must be written and pronounced by a fixed rule, so that the very word conveys, on its face, its own pronunciation, and there will be no need of referring to dictionaries or authorities to decide; the alphabet is its own interpreter of sounds. I send you herewith one of Dr. Comstock's newspapers, so that you may see for yourself his plan; and you will be satisfied, Mr. Editor, after you look into it, that it needs no eulogy of mine to recommend it to your notice, or that of your readers.

J. A. E.\*

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\* We have reason to think that the above article was written by Mrs. Jane A. Eames, of Providence, R. I.—the authoress of a very interesting *anonymous* work, entitled, "Budget of Letters."—C.

*A Letter from the Rev. William Beardsley,*

Author of a Phonetic Alphabet and a System of Short-Hand.

BRISTOL, Kendall Co., Illinois, Feb. 20, 1851.

DR. A. COMSTOCK :

Dear Sir,—For several months I have been proposing to write to you on the subject of the reform you so nobly persevere in—that of the written representation of speech; or, as I would style it, *The Epographic Reform*.

YOUR PAMPHONETICON, as to its general features, commends itself to every mind capable of judging of its merits, as an improvement in literature, which, if generally adopted, would be of greater utility for the generation now growing up, and for those to come, than all our modern improvements in the arts, as effected by the application of steam-power to machinery. These, indeed, facilitate the acquisition of wealth in a great variety of ways, as well as multiply, almost incalculably, the conveniences of life. They also bring regions of the earth, remote from each other, into proximity, and thus introduce distant nations to each other's acquaintance, and open to our view illimitable sources of knowledge and enjoyment.

But the PAMPHONETICON, let it be put into general operation, would be the key to unlock those sources of knowledge to every mind, and thus qualify, or furnish the means to qualify all who would avail themselves of its advantages. And, as to the pecuniary advantages it would afford, if the maxim, "A penny saved is a penny earned," is true, this improvement would not suffer in comparison with any of those effected by steam-power. And then the mighty impetus it would give to the study of language, and the magic power it would exert to dispel the confusion and jargon of modern tongues, and gradually prepare the way for one universal language; or, at least, to remove one of the chief obstacles to the acquisition of the different languages, so as to render them comparatively easy, and thus remove, also, one of the great barriers to international communication and amity.

How vastly would such a reform, or rather revolution, speed the march of science and of the arts in every land, and especially in our own! Suppose the two millions of children, or more, in the United States, now in a process of drilling in our primary schools, in order to "beat into them" a knowledge of the common alphabet, and of its labyrinthic arrangements into words to represent our spoken language, instead of being thus absurdly led, or driven "*in terrorem*," through all the countless intricacies of such a chaos—*instructed correctly* in the science of Epology, or Phonetics, and then, in the *simple representation* of the elementary sounds, on the principle of one simple sign to each elementary sound, and always the same letter to denote *one and the same sound*—who can estimate the amount of energy such a change would impart to those millions of young minds, now comparatively inert?—inert, because uninterested, and uninterested because uninformed as to the very rudiments of their mother tongue. Instead of drilling them much of their time in school for many years, in the dry and most repulsive task of reading and spelling syllables and words, which *few* ever perfectly attain, and *less retain*, let them once and forever learn the *true* theory and

practice (which a great portion of them would be able to do within a month), and then let them apply their minds to the study of *things*, so as to acquire knowledge, and they will manifest an ever-increasing eagerness to climb the heights of science. How different would be their history, and how much higher their destiny!

Persevere, then, in the work, and may you live to witness in this enterprise as great a change as has been effected, within the last forty years, in locomotion by steam-power.

Yours for the Reform,

WM. BEARDSLEY.

*A Letter from Stephen D. Stout, Esq.*

CHARLESTON, Tennessee, Feb. 23, 1851.

DR. A. COMSTOCK:

Sir,—I have been reading your paper (*Phonetic Telegraph*) for more than a year; and I must say that I have the highest opinion of your improved system of orthography. I received all the books that I ordered from you, and a little *Geography* extra, which is truly a beautiful book.

I was pleased with the *Phonetic Alphabet* at first sight, but withheld my opinion till I had carefully examined the merits of the system. Now, I think I am not mistaken when I say that the *Phonetic Alphabet* is one of the greatest inventions of the age. Its beautiful appearance, its simplicity, and, above all, its *perfection*, speak highly in its favor; and, so far as my observation extends, it has been favorably received wherever it has been examined.

I feel deeply interested in your publications, and will do all in my power to aid you in this great Reform.

Yours, truly,

STEPHEN D. STOUT.

*Teacher of a Grammar-School.*

*A Letter from J. K. Mitchell, M. D., the Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine, in Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, and a Member of the American Philosophical Society.*

PHILADELPHIA, June 28, 1851.

A. COMSTOCK, M. D.:

Dear Sir,—From a critical examination of your great theory of *Phonetics*, I am glad to find that the system has already attained to completion. To me it is truly gratifying to learn that an alphabet exists which is strictly representative, not only of all the sounds, but of their various modifications in speech, in every language in which books are written upon the arts and sciences. I am glad to perceive this, because I consider a universal alphabet of the greatest value to the civilized world. A knowledge of your system enables the student, at once and always, to read every book printed conformably to it, not only in English, but in French, German, Latin, Greek, Spanish, Italian, &c. The greatest obstacle to the acquisition of one's vernacular, or any other language, is thus entirely removed, and the learner finds the only insu-

perable impediment to self-instruction totally obviated. Not only will your system of Phonetics do these things, but it will produce that uniformity of pronunciation so desirable and so elegant.

I esteem your efforts of the greatest value, because I perceive that the dream of Franklin has become, in your hands, a profound reality.

I remain, dear sir, truly yours, J. K. MITCHELL.

*A Letter from the Rev. D. G. Mallery, of Woodstock, Virginia.*

DR. A. COMSTOCK :

FAIRFAX C. H., VA., March 31st, 1855.

Dear Sir,—I am delighted with your little book, (*Phonetic Reader*, No. 1.), and shall do what I am able, to make it known in my neighborhood.

I have been a teacher during most of the last ten years, and have a thousand times lamented that we have an orthography so absurd. Your beautiful alphabet is all that I can desire. Its adaptation to all languages, and particularly its relation to the missionary work, makes me most anxious for its speedy adoption. Had I the power to *compel* its adoption by all missionaries, that power should be exercised.

Enclosed, please find postage-stamps for the Readers, and also for your *Treatise on Phonology*, which latter please send by mail. I shall get some, if not all of your other books, when I reach home. I expect to remain here during the month of April, and after that shall reside permanently at Woodstock, Shenandoah county, Va. Yours sincerely,

D. G. MALLERY.

*Another Letter from Rev. D. G. Mallery.*

DR. COMSTOCK :

F. C. H., April 18th, 1855.

Dear Sir,—Your letter came to hand while I was conversing with another minister on your system. Although I had never seen a script alphabet in actual pen and ink writing, yet I read it without the least hesitation; and, handing it to my friend, he found but few words which he did not understand, notwithstanding his only acquaintance with your alphabet was gained from looking over the slip of printed paper which you enclosed, and that while I was reading your letter.

I hope to see the day when we shall have the Hebrew Bible printed in your phonetic characters; and I am sure it would delight the eyes of many who, like myself, have wearied themselves with the uncouth characters in which we are now obliged to read it.

As you are aware, it is one of the subjects on which candidates for the (Presbyterian) ministry are examined; yet you will not, I think, find one in ten who can read it after five years' ministerial life. This is owing, in a great measure, to the irksomeness of the task of keeping up their acquaintance with it; and this is occasioned by the character of the letters which, with the subscript vowel-points, gives a confused appearance to the page, wearying the eyes of all, and permanently injuring the eyes of many.

If such a book as "Arnold's Hebrew Book" could be published with some portion of Genesis and the Psalms added to it, and all in your phonetic characters, the labor of learning Hebrew would become a pleasure.

Yours truly,

D. G. MALLERY,  
Woodstock, Shenandoah Co., Va.

*A Letter from N. F. Cooledge, Principal of Cotton Hill Seminary, Ga.*

DR. A. COMSTOCK :

COTTON HILL, Ga., July 7, 1855.

DEAR SIR,—I am well satisfied, from the simplicity and utility of your UNIVERSAL ALPHABET, that it is a work “destined for immortality;” and that if you will publish a complete series of school-books, in my humble opinion, ten years will suffice to work a general reformation, and class the old alphabet among the “things that have been, but are no more.”

Permit me to say, most respectfully, that your claims are not so generally understood as they should be. I think your watchword should be *agitation*—your motto, *keep it before the people*; for the friends of this reform are looking to you to carry it forward. Respectfully,

N. F. COOLEIDGE.

*A Letter from Gilbert Randolph, Esq.*Morgan Kpnti, TENNESSEE, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>, 1854.

DR. ANDREW COMSTOCK :

DIR SUR—Mør dan a yr agø I røt ts yu, and ri-ivd an ansur, relativ ts yr Fønëtik wurks; sins qid tim I hav bin ordurng sum ov yr wurks ðrs ðe hps ov Lipinkot, Grambø & Ku.

I am wel plrzd wïd yr Sistem ov Fønëtit. Yr Fønëtik karakturz ðs not luk sø huked, kraked, and unsith æz Pitman's. Cërli yurz wil tek batur wïd ðe Amerikan pipł ðan biz.

I am trënj a komun sksl, and hav a klas rëlj in ðe Testament: qil ðe rïd, I hav Komstok's Fønëtik Testament bïfər mï. Hq izi it iz! It iz nø trubl ts kol svuri hard nem in it.

I am trinj ts get mi patrurz in ðe spirit ov Fønëtit. If I suksid, I cal ordur a pak ov yr buks bitwin ðis and sprinj. I wud bi gläd if yr Dik-eunari kud bi redi bi ðat tim. I hav sevural students nq, hs rïd yr Fønëtik print preti wel, and sevural hs kan spel olmöst eni wurd bi squd. I am konvinst ðat ðe studi ov Fønëtit wil fasilitet ðe studi ov orðograft, ivn akordij ts ðe old mæðud.

If yu ar publienj a periðikal in yr Alfabet, I dazir yu ts send it ts mï; and ðe subskripenn pris cal bi fərðkumij upon ðe risit ov ðe furst numbur. Mi pø-t-øfis iz, Pørt Òk Sprinj, Røn Kpnti, TENNESSEE.

Yr wurks hav givn entir satisfakeun qørëvur I hav surkuletəd ðem. Høpïnj ts hir from yu ssn, relativ ts yr Dik-eunari, tsgeður wïd eni suggs-čunz yu me si fit ts mek ts wun hs wiciz yr Fønëtit yunivarsal suks-es, I am yurz, rispektfuli,

G. RANDOLF.

*A Letter from Wm. Johns, Esq., of Talladega, Alabama.*

Talladega, Alabama, Okt. 9, 1847.

SUR,—I hav wïd plejër, and, I trust, not wïdqt profit, ri-ivd and rəd ðe difurënt numburz ov yr Fønëtik Magazin, from ðe komensment ov its publikeeun.

Yurz iz, ts mi mind, a lodəbl enturpriz, and destind ts efekt muč fər ðe kōz ov lurnij, not onli amij ðəz hs nq spik dï Inglic lanġwïd, but bi ren-

durin a noleđ ov it izi ov akwizicun, indls its adopeun bi đr uđur necunz ov đr urđ. Ais wil probablđ bi đr ultimatun.

Wer it nes-sari, and kud I prizzun ts efekt eni đny, I mit se menđ gud đnyz in rilecun ts yur sistem ov Fonografi, and yur eferts for riform; but I kanot enkuriđ yu sō efekćrāl eni uđur we az bi givnđ yu mi đn patruniđ. I đarfər inkloz yu wun dolur, wiđ đe rikwest đat yu send mi đe Magazin for đe kurent yur.

I hav komeunst đr establieunent ov an indipendent Hi Skul in đis ples (Talladiga); and, lik yur frend Birdzi, "I am dżirus ts obten, at đr qts-et, đe mōst aprsđd buks, and ts intrōdls đe mōst aprsđd međudz ov instrukeun." And I cal, az sēn az konvinyent, egamm yur sniz ov buks; and, if đe ar got I anti-ipet, adopt đem az text-buks, and endevur ts hav đem intrōdrest đenurali, in đis kqnti. Yurz, wiđ respekt,

WM. JONZ.

Dr. A. KOMSTOK, Philadelphia.

*The following Lines, accompanied with the First Edition of the Treatise on Phonology, were sent to an uncle (since deceased), who was both a Clergyman and a Physician.*

Philadelphia, April 2, 1846.

I've bin engeđd, az bi điz linz yu'l sɪ,  
In mekđ purfekt qr ɔrdɔgrafi.  
Ɔr auzsturz, az if đor sunz ts bodur,  
Speld wurđz wun we—prɔnqnst đem in anudur;  
Bi đe sem sin exprest kwit đifurɔnt sqndz,  
Qic muć, yu nō, đe pɔpəl'z mind konfɔndz.  
But wɪ. hs liv in đis enlitnd eđ,  
Qen nudn but imprɔvment iz đe red,  
Qen Komurs brɪnz hur mairćandiz from far,  
On snɔrtɪnz stimlɔts and đe flɪnz kar,  
Qen wudn men ar med ts spɪk and snɪ,  
And nɪz iz karɪd on đe litnɪnz wɪnz,  
Qen evuri art iz ts purfekteun brɔt,  
And evuri lɔnzwiđ "in sɪx lɛnz tot,"  
Wil purfekt ɔrdur qɔt ov keos brɪnz,  
And mek qr spelnz kwit an izi đny.  
Ais haz bin đun, az bi mi buk yu'l sɪ,  
Qic bɔrz đe titl ov Fonolɔđi.  
Prɪnz đe wurk, not wiđ a hesɪ glans,  
If yu đe kɔz ov siens wud advans;  
But wiđ đv kɔr, and wiđ inkwɪrɪnz mind,  
Az ɔl wil đs hs'd benɪfɪć mɔnkɪnd,  
Qedur đe pedl pɪlz, yuz ɔldrɛn trɪ,  
Folɔ đe plɔq, ɔr in đe pulpit prɪć.

A. KOMSTOK.



*A Letter from Wm. H. Allen, LL.D., President of Girard College.*

GIRARD COLLEGE, Aug. 31, 1855.

DR. A. COMSTOCK:

Dear Sir, — Having examined your Phonetic Alphabet, I believe that it is founded on a correct analysis of the elementary sounds of our language, and that its use would greatly facilitate the acquisition of the arts of reading and spelling, as well as promote uniformity in pronunciation. The characters which you have adopted, being the Roman and Greek letters, or modifications of them, are simple in form, easy to write, and pleasant to the eye, while the tone-marks, to indicate accent, inflection, and intonation, enable the reader to comprehend and represent the exact meaning of his author.

I recommend your alphabet to the attention of teachers and writers, in the belief that its introduction into general use would save years of irksome labor to children, and be the nearest approach which has been made to a "royal road to knowledge."

I remain, respectfully yours,

WM. H. ALLEN.

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*A Letter from the Rev. Lyman Coleman, D. D., Principal of the Presbyterian Institute, and Author of "An Historical Text-Book, and Atlas of Biblical Geography;" "Ancient Christianity Exemplified;" "Apostolic and Primitive Church," &c. &c.*

DR. A. COMSTOCK:

Dear Sir,—I do but reiterate the common sentiment of all who have duly examined your Phonetic Alphabet, in giving expression to the conviction that the characters which you have adopted greatly surpass, in simplicity and beauty, all similar attempts to analyze and express the elementary sounds of our language; and I consider that your Pamphlet is the nearest approach which has ever been made to a universal alphabet.

Were it possible to reduce our spelling to a system so simple, so comprehensive, and complete, it would be an incalculable service to all who encounter the difficulties of the anomalous orthography of our noble language. Even should a reform so desirable prove unsuccessful, your efforts in this direction are not the less important to all those who study the first principles of our own, or of foreign languages.

Very respectfully yours,

LYMAN COLEMAN.

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 6, 1855.

I concur entirely in the opinion of Dr. Coleman.

JOHN S. HART,

Principal of the Philadelphia High School.

September 7, 1855.

*A Letter from James M. Morrison, Esq., the Linguist and Poet.*

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 2, 1855.

DR. COMSTOCK :

Dear Sir,—Although what I may say in commendation of your Phonetic System can have little or no weight, being, as Burns says,

“————— a nameless wight,  
Trode in the mire clean out of sight;”

yet having, for a period of over thirty years, made the study of languages a recreation, I consider myself not altogether incompetent to say a good word for you.

Every linguist knows that, poor as the English tongue is in articulate sounds, the Roman alphabet is inadequate to give them all expression. It is equally evident that numerous combinations of letters are retained to express sounds that are now obsolete or provincial. Hence the apparently absurd combinations of letters expressing the same sound, and the equally absurd double, triple, and even quadruple debt which the same letter is made to pay, by representing different sounds — an anomaly found, to the same extent, in no other tongue; alike repulsive to foreigners and puzzling to children. Your system cuts a clear path through this tangled thicket, by giving each letter an articulate sound, and each sound a uniform representation.

As our knowledge of the great family of man increases, our ideas require to be expressed in words whose uncouth sounds cannot be written in Roman characters, such as Chinese, Hindostanee, Russian, &c.; but they can be easily managed by your system. And provincial peculiarities, as well as words from the French, Spanish, &c., when printed in your characters, can be read to a native without exciting his risibility.

To my mind, the most ingenious part of your whole system is its *tone-marks*, by means of which the reader is not only enabled to pronounce single words correctly, but to give the very tones of the language in which the author himself would express his ideas.

Wishing you as much gain and glory as your meritorious labors deserve, I am yours, very respectfully,

JAMES M. MORRISON.

~~~~~  
PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 6, 1855.

I HAVE examined Dr. Comstock's Phonetic Alphabet with some care, and I consider it decidedly the best that I have ever seen.

P. REDFIELD,

Phonographer and Principal of Mantua Boys' School.

RECOMMENDATION  
OF  
Dr. Comstock's Phonetic Alphabet  
WITH A COMPARATIVE VIEW OF  
THE PRESENT PHONETIC ALPHABETS.

~~~~~

WE have carefully compared the Phonetic Alphabet of Dr. A. Comstock, of Philadelphia, with that of Isaac Pitman, of England, now used by himself in that country, and by Andrew J. Graham in this; also with the modification of the said alphabet as used by Longley, Prosser, and Benn Pitman, in Cincinnati; and we have no hesitation in saying that the Alphabet of Dr. Comstock is far preferable, for the following reasons : —

1. Dr. Comstock's alphabet is founded on a correct analysis of the elementary sounds of the language; whereas Pitman's alphabet, as well as its modification, is founded on an incorrect analysis of these sounds.\*

2. The alphabet of Dr. C. contains *all* the letters of the old alphabet; whereas the other alphabets reject *three* of them, viz., *c*, *q*, and *x*. .

3. In Dr. C.'s alphabet, the letters of the *old* alphabet are employed in a way which essentially aids the pupil in acquiring

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\* We do not here wish to be understood as referring, in any respect whatever, to Pitman's *Short-Hand* Alphabet. His *Phonography*, as he calls it, though not strictly *phonetic*, is admitted to be the best system of Short-Hand which has yet been devised.

a knowledge of other languages, as they are appropriated, as far as practicable, to the corresponding sounds in the different languages in which the Roman alphabet is used ; whereas, in Pitman's alphabet, as well as in its modification, the letters of the Roman alphabet are *not* employed in a way which affords the learner of other languages essential aid.

4. Whenever there is a sound common to the English and the Greek, and the English having no letter for it, but the Greek a letter appropriated to the sound, this letter, in Dr. C.'s alphabet, is made to represent the same sound ; whereas, in Pitman's alphabet, as well as in its modification, not one Greek letter which is employed by him, is appropriated to the sound that it represents in the Greek. Not only so : Mr. Pitman has formed new letters which are inelegant, when he might have taken Greek letters which are beautiful, to represent sounds that are common to the two languages.

5. All the letters in Dr. C.'s alphabet are symmetrical, and, in print, afford a beautiful page ; whereas, in Pitman's alphabet, as well as in its modification, many of the letters are uncouth, and, in print, make the page unseemly.

6. Dr. C.'s alphabet has *tone-marks* to indicate accent, inflection, and intonation, which enable one to read, at any period however distant, an author exactly as he intended ; but Pitman's alphabet, as well as its modification, is destitute of tone-marks, and, consequently, affords no such aid.

In conclusion, we would say that Dr. C.'s alphabet is the only one which we have ever seen that deserves the name of *phonetic*, for it is the only one which has a letter appropriated to every elementary sound of the language, and signs to represent the various modifications of the voice in reading and speaking. And we verily believe that this alphabet would not only enable the pupil to resolve vocal words into their elementary sounds, and to read with propriety, but would greatly facilitate his acquisition of our present anomalous orthography.

With these views we cordially recommend Dr. Comstock's Phonetic Alphabet to the consideration of those who feel an interest in a subject so well calculated to facilitate the acquisition of knowledge, and promote the extension of morality and religion throughout the earth.

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ing, Philadelphia

*A Letter from George B. Wood, M. D., Professor of the Theory and Prac-  
tice of Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania.*

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 28, 1855.

DEAR DOCTOR:

From what I know of your System of Phonology, from the great length of time and diligent perseverance which you have devoted to this subject, and from my knowledge of your general character and ability, I have no doubt that your Treatise on Phonology, now in the press, will be a work of much research and great usefulness, and should have no hesitation in recommending it to all teachers of youth, and all others desirous of forming a just estimate of spoken language.

Respectfully and truly yours,

GEO. B. WOOD.

DR. ANDREW COMSTOCK.

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